Saturday, August 11, 2012 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 244 P18 | Mobile Alerts Text INQ to 2899 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Kodyo Inquirer Ed. on Facebook Twitter: @inqnews

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
ADVANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

DIPPING THROUGH A LIFELINE To reach safer, higher ground, a young boy tests an improvised zip line anchored in a house isolated by floodwaters in Cainta, Rizal province, on Friday. Though the relentless pounding of the rains has stopped, many areas are still submerged in floodwaters in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon. MANUEL MORALES

Aquino forced to land

With Pepe, Pilar in mind, Drilon hats for Sept. school opening

By Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FREQUENT suspension of classes makes Pepe and Pilar dull.

So cardinals Jose Francis Estrada and Ricardo Vidal renewed his call yesterday for a change in the country's school calendar amid frequent and lengthy class suspensions due to the heavy rains and typhoon-prone months this week.

"The [students'] being absent in school means less absorption and less time to learn," Drilon said in a statement, adding that

PEPE PILAR A4

CLOSE CALL President Aquino and the presidential party walk in the rain after poor visibility forced the presidential chopper to make an emergency landing at Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway near the exit of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac on Friday MALACAÑANG PHOTO

President on 4-province swing in Central Luzon

By Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—President Aquino yesterday inspected the flooded plains of four provinces in Central Luzon, revisiting decades-old plans to build a multipurpose dam after observing that 25 percent of the villages in Tarlac, his home province, was flooded because of this week's torrential monsoon rains.

In Dinalupihan, Bataan, his second stop on a four-province swing in Central Luzon, Mr. Aquino promised flood victims that experts from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) would study the source of flooding and plug this.

"After the rains stop, the experts from the DPWH will come here to study where the water is coming from, and what can be done to mitigate this. We will come back to present the plan, when we can start it, and when you can expect the results. We'll fix this, that's our commitment," Mr. Aquino said.

But the President, visiting thousands of people huddled in

P-NOY CHOPPER A4

P-Noy hails outpouring of aid for flood victims

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday expressed elation at the outpouring of support from local government, international sources and the private sector, as he assured thousands of families displaced by floods in Metro Manila, central and southern Luzon, of a "permanent solution" to their woes.

"If we have tragedies like this, there are many of our countrymen who go out of their way to help even without us asking for it," Mr. Aquino said, as he thanked Isabela Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III for donating at least 1,000 cavans of rice and Albay Gov. Joey Salceda for dispatching 35 rescue personnel to areas devastated by days of monsoon rain.

PINOY A7

Storm with no name death toll: 60

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT HAS BEEN billed as the storm with no name.

But the torrential monsoon rains that pounded Metro Manila and surrounding provinces beginning Sunday left 60 people dead and caused at least P1 billion in damage to agriculture in one region alone, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported yesterday.

More than half of the National Capital Region, home to 12 million people, went under water at the peak of the floods brought on by relentless monsoon rains.

About 2.4 million people in the metropolis and surrounding provinces were affected, forcing

STORM A6

Pagasa: Expect more monsoon rains / A5

Curiosity sends postcards from edges of Mars

PASADENA, California—The science rover Curiosity took a break from astronomical checks on its third full day on Mars to beam back more pictures from the Red Planet, including its first self-portrait and a 360-degree color view of its home in Gale Crater.

The panoramic mosaic, comprising 130 separate images that Curiosity captured with its newly activated navigation cameras, shows a rust-colored, pebble-strewn expanse stretching to a wall of the crater's rim in one direction and a tall

CURIOSITY A6

Party's over for PH Olympians

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

LONDON—The party may be over for the hapless Philippine delegation but the action continues for most everyone else at the 30th Olympic Games.

On the day Daniel Caluag bombed out of the BMX cycling quarterfinals to end the Philippine campaign in London, the Olympic Stadium at the other end of the Olympic Park was the scene of dramatics and

PARTY'S A8

Jamaica's Lightning Bolt gets 2nd gold, 3rd up

LONDON—Calling himself "the greatest athlete" of all time, Jamaica's Usain Bolt sprinted into the pantheon of Olympic greats on Thursday as he zoomed to victory in the Games' 200 meters to seal an unprecedented second successive sprint double.

Bolt, who retained his 100 meters title in style on Saturday, crossed the line in 19.32 seconds—the equal fourth fastest time of all time—in front of a delirious sellout crowd of 80,000 at the Olympic Stadium.

The 25-year-old's victory meant he bettered the record of

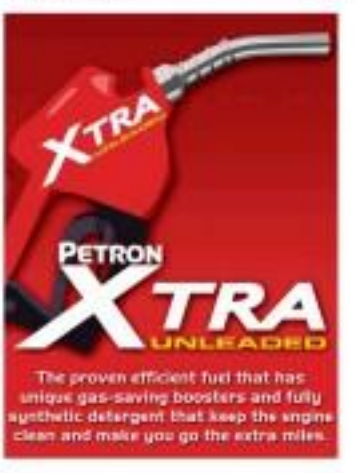
BOLT A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS
JBC reschedules vote on CJ short list for Monday / A2
MSU back to 'normal' but soldiers stay / A13

NEWS
SWS: Pinoys' trust in China plunges from plus 10 to minus 36 / A2
Indian national kidnapped by Abu escapes in Sulu / A5

WORLD
Murder trial of Chinese political leader's wife begins, ends in a day / A21



Second FRONTPAGE

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JBC defers vote on CJ short list anew

By Jerome Aning

THE JUDICIAL and Bar Council (JBC) has rescheduled for Monday its final voting for nominees to the Chief Justice post after it failed to reach a consensus yesterday on a proposal to suspend the rules for disqualification in favor of three nominees, including Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

Bello Rep. Mel Tapia, the JBC member representing the Congress, said the body was unable to vote on whether to suspend the rules on the disqualification of candidates who have pending appeal or administrative cases.

The council, Tapia added, also failed to reach a consensus on whether the issues affecting the disqualified candidates involved a question of integrity, which may be resolved only by a unanimous vote in accordance with the JBC's rules.

The voting was meant for 11 a.m. on Monday, after the pending issues are resolved one, he said.

Tapia said it was also decided that this would be that last postponement to give the JBC time for deadline for President Aquino to appoint the next Chief Justice is Aug. 27.

DISQUALIFIED UNDER JBC RULES BUT...

DE LIMA

HERNDOZA

JARDELEZA

Yesterday's meeting tackled four issues: who of the candidates have pending cases, who are disqualified under the rules, what is the decision of the council regarding those disqualified, and if the issues affecting those disqualified are integrity-related.

The council members agreed that three of the aspirants—Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza, and Ombudsman Chair Teresita Herbosa—have pending cases and were therefore disqualified under the JBC's rules.

"Yes, under the JBC rules, they are disqualified. We're agreed on that," Tapia said.

De Lima has petitioned the JBC several times asking that she not be disqualified as she claimed the disqualification rises against her were politically motivated.

Tapia said the council also agreed that there was no impediment to the possible nomination of Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio in the disbarment case against him was junked by the Supreme Court earlier yesterday.

It was the issue of whether to suspend the rules on disqualification in the case of the three nominees...De Lima, Jardeleza and Herbosa that a consensus could not be arrived at.

He said the JBC considers "from the executive [branch]"—referring to Michael Frederick Musngi of the Office of Special Concerns of the the Office of the President—"just" proposed to suspend the rules on disqualifications, which Tapia seconded.

However, there were objections from other members, hence the failure to reach a consensus. The proposal remained on the table at the end of the meeting, Tapia said.

One JBC member, whom Tapia declined to name, objected to the proposal to suspend the disqualification rule and asked whether the pending complaints against those disqualified involved questions of the candidates' integrity.

"This one values are argued. There are no consents. We moved for a break. There was a long break. Despite that, there was [still] no consensus. I sensed that some drew was no consensus, those issues should be tackled in the next meeting. We decided it was time to enter those issue in Monday," Tapia said.

Under the JBC rules, a candidate whose integrity is challenged must obtain the vote of all members for the favorable consideration of his or her nomination.

The vote has to be unanimous so if just one member raises a question of integrity, the motion to suspend the rules would be defeated.

Along with Chino, the survey also showed that North Korea had a "bad" trust rating with Filipinos (minus 34).

On the other hand, the United States enjoyed a "very good" trust rating of plus 62, while Australia (plus 39) and Japan (plus 32) enjoyed "good" ratings.

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults nationwide, and had an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

Inquirer Research

Uphold independence in CJ choice, JBC told

By Jerome Aning

A FILIPINO lawyer and faculty member of the Peking University School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China, has asked on the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to uphold its constitutional independence in screening the candidates for Chief Justice.

"I am troubled to read from various news reports that there are many ongoing attempts to erode the constitutional independence of the Judicial and Bar Council, from the last-minute proposals to change its own rules to accommodate and adjust to specific cases, to alleged efforts from some members of the executive branch to exert undue influence on members of the shortlist," lawyer Diane Desierto said in an open letter to the JBC.

All of these actions, if true, are unprecedented and are of dubious constitutionality. They will weaken the deliberative process and immobility intended by the 1987 Philippine Constitution for the JBC," she said.

Desierto recalled how former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had "attempted to undermine" the council by reinstating the doctrine to those to include her preferred nominees. However, Desierto said the council "headed by stood firm and decided independently, thus preventing any potential overreaching from any of the branches of government."

"Our Constitution is only as strong as our institutions are—institutions of their constitutional duties. The JBC has proven itself resoundingly as the vanguard of independence and the rule of law, which enforces the same standard on applicants to the highest officers of the judiciary," she said.

Desierto said global scholars to competitive constitutional law were "closely following recent developments unfolding at the JBC, particularly the further threat of continued judicial politicization."

The JBC's decision, Desierto said, will be "a watershed moment for the JBC's institutional duties and its own rules of procedure developed, studied, and solidified over time through the JBC's well-entrenched and prudent practices," she said.

The JBC first set the voting on the Chief Justice shortlist for July 30 but opted to defer it to Aug. 2 as it wanted to wait for the Supreme Court's final ruling on the constitutionality of the council's eight-month resignation that had been challenged by lawyer Frisde Chavez.

The high court ruled last July 17 that Aurora should only be seven members of the council with last one representative from Congress as provided for in Article VIII Section 8(1) of the Constitution. However, on Aug. 3, the high court suspended the implementation of its order after Congress appealed its decision.

The JBC then won the voting to Aug. 6, but Sen. Francis Escudero, the Senate representative in the council, asked for more time to examine the qualifications of the 20 candidates. The heavy monsoon rains and resulting floods necessitated yet another postponement.

SWS survey: Filipinos lose trust in China

AMIDST the ongoing dispute with Beijing over the Panatag Shoal (known to most locals as Scarborough Shoal), Filipinos' trust in China plunged to a record low of minus 36 in May, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The survey, conducted between May 24 and 27 and first reported in the Business World newspaper, found that 55 percent of Filipinos had "little trust" in China while 19 percent had "much trust," resulting in a "bad" net rating of minus 36.

Last March, the net rating of China among Filipinos was at "moderate" plus 13 (39 percent "moderate trust," 26 percent "little trust").

The SWS considers net satisfaction ratings of plus 70 and above to be "excellent"; plus 50 to plus 69, "very good"; plus 30 to plus 49, "good"; plus 10 to plus 29, "moderate"; plus 9 to minus 9, "neutral"; minus 10 to minus 29, "poor"; minus 30 to minus 49, "bad"; minus 50 to minus 69, "very bad"; and minus 70 and below, "execrable."

The survey also showed that the "tension between the Philippines and China in [the] Scarborough Shoal" area among the most followed news events in the country in May. Forty-eight percent of the respondents said they "followed closely" the news about the 30-nation-high tiffs and standoff.

Among China who considered the issue very closely, net trust rating for China was "very bad" at minus 52, while it was "bad" among those who follow the news somewhat closely (minus 36).

Along with China, the survey also showed that North Korea had a "bad" trust rating with Filipinos (minus 34).

On the other hand, the United States enjoyed a "very good" trust rating of plus 62, while Australia (plus 39) and Japan (plus 32) enjoyed "good" ratings.

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults nationwide, and had an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

Inquirer Research

DFA confirms recall of Cambodian envoy

By Tarra Quismundo

CAMBODIA has recalled its ambassador to Manila amid mutual recriminations over a regional position on the maritime dispute of the Philippines with China.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario yesterday confirmed the recall of Cambodian ambassador Hor Imsvibandi days after the envoy was asked to explain why he accused the Philippines of "dirty politics" to the recently concluded Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) conference in Cambodia.

The Cambodian ambassador accused the Philippines and Vietnam of trying to force their bilateral problems on the regional bloc in a letter published by a national newspaper. The letter seems to response to a Filipino diplomat's published article accusing Cambodia of blocking an Asean communique that would have mentioned the maritime dispute.

Del Rosario did mention the reasons Cambodia recalled its envoy.

The ambassador had failed to appear pleading illness, when the Department of Foreign Affairs summoned him to explain his controversial comments.

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said that it was Cambodia's prerogative to recall its envoy. He also did not elaborate.

Hernandez said the Cambodian Foreign Ministry sent a note verbale relaying its decision to recall the envoy on Aug. 3, four days after the Philippines protested Hor Imsvibandi's letter.

The Cambodian ambassador is expected to leave on Aug. 17. He flew out of Manila without handing Sitha statements, first issued on July 26.

"It is the prerogative of governments to appoint or to recall ambassadors, as they deem fit and appropriate," said Hernandez.

But Hernandez said he did not think this signalled a break in Philippines-Cambodian bilateral relations, adding that there were no indications Cambodia would appoint a new ambassador to Manila.

The exchange of sharp comments between the Philippines and Cambodia has further deepened divisions within the 10-nation Asean. The events undermined meetings hosted by Cambodia that ended in disarray over the media jam.

The Philippines had charged that during the meeting Cambodia, a close ally of China, rejected at least five drafts of a joint statement that would have addressed the territorial disputes in Beijing over the South China Sea.

In his response, Hor Sonyvibandi accused the Philippines and Vietnam of working to "sabotage and hijack the joint communique" during the Asean meeting.

China claims sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea, which is believed to sit atop vast natural resources.

The Asean members the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Taiwan, have overlapping claims in the area.

Tensions escalated this year, with Beijing becoming more hostile to diplomatic tones with Manila and Hanoi.

Diplomats had said the Philippines called on its fellow Asean members at the Cambodia meeting to support it against China.

The result of an survey, announcing members of the Asean happened on the line celebrated its 45th anniversary, an event which brought together calls for greater unity among member nations despite disputes. INQ, AFP

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PH workers lose case vs Dole in US

LOS ANGELES—A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by nearly 3,000 Filipino workers claiming injury from pesticide exposure while searching for Dole Food Co.

The Workers Comp Time reports the plaintiffs said they were exposed to the pesticides at banana plantations more than 10 years ago.

The food company says an identical lawsuit filed 15 years ago in the Philippines was dismissed by that country's supreme court.

The pesticides have since been banned by the Environmental Protection Agency, and classified as a probable human carcinogen. AP

House to rush bills vs calamities

By Christian V. Esguerra

DELPHOTO

THE LEADERSHIP of the House of Representatives has vowed to expedite the passage of key measures seeking better institutional response during calamities after the country experienced disaster flooding triggered by relentless monsoon rains.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., veteran political bulldozer of Quezon City, was finally hit by floods, vowed to take action on more than a dozen of such bills still pending at the committee level.

"I will hunt the committees concerned for bills in that vault, dust 'em off, [and] ask the bugsong is a new message.

One bill, filed earlier this year by Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo, calls for a "system of effective food administration of donations and humanitarian aid" during calamities. The idea is to allow "relief agencies and humanitarian organizations (its) efficiently access for funds, cash donations or aid intended for legitimate victims or communities."

"In effect, it sets the procedures and protocols to be taken into account in order to fill the gaps of chronic and systemic failures in a limited amount, timely and responsive movement of relief food supplies, goods and aid to affected victims or population in a disaster site or area," he said in House Bill No. 5700, explanatory note.

Another bill bears the construction of residential, commercial or any other habitable structures along areas prone to floods and landslides. Nearly is not in a minimum of six months to a year to put.

House Bill No. 4868 requires the inclusion of lessons on disaster awareness and mitigation in the elementary and high school curricula.

Such measures shall include, among others, a content on natural and man-made disasters in order to instill disaster awareness and promote active participation among the youth, students and workers as a whole in disaster preparedness for the benefit of the nation," Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said of his bill.

A bill by Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño mandates "telecommunications service providers to send free mobile alerts in the event of natural and man-made disasters and calamities."

"Modern notification systems, such as mobile phone alerts, can be used to augment the warning and notification system. The ubiquity of mobile phones should be maximized to send out emergency alerts, at no cost to consumers," he said.

San Juan Rep. Jose Victor Ejercito thus a bill seeking a "scientific basis of local government units for disaster response and recovery." Another Ejercito measure would benefit workers engaged in disaster areas by providing them with proper protective equipment.

Ex-gov't execs, political clans lead party-list

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ARI ELECTION watchdog has observed that more than 30 of the 360 party-list groups seeking accreditation from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) have appointed nominees who are either former government officials or members of powerful political clans in the country.

Among the nominees the Quezon City-based group Bantay Eleksyon found questionable include ex-lawmakers and allies of President Aquino and those of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bantay Eleksyon said Mr. Aquino's aunt, Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, who was chosen as the main representative of Mayon Magsasa-Isa-Pamilya Ting ng Masa, a supposed farmers' rights advocate.

The poll watchdog said Cojuangco had "no business" representing the farmers since "it was created merely by the landlords of this country to circumvent the law," it said.

Bantay Eleksyon also cast doubt on the Black and White Movement, whose personalities and nominees have been appointed to various government agencies, particularly Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and presidential peace adviser Ging Deles.

The group listed Leah Navarro, board member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, as one of its nominees.

The poll watchdog also criticized the bid of former Thai cardinalman Jose Miguel Arroyo's lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, to become the second nominee of a legitimate transport group, Pasang Masda Nationwide Inc.

Bantay Eleksyon described the bid of Agrarian Development Association party-list nominee, Pasang Masda Nationwide Inc.

"It would be a major defeat for the party-list system, if this powerful political family gets a seat in Congress through a party-list election," said Bantay Eleksyon.

The group said it will count filing a formal opposition against the groups' bid for accreditation before the Comelec next week.

CA junks motion vs Red Bull maker

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has rejected the motion for reconsideration filed by a former distributor of Red Bull energy drink, allowing the Thai manufacturer of Red Bull to designate another distributor in the Philippines.

The appellate court issued a resolution on July 31, 2012 denying for lack of merit the motion for reconsideration filed by Energy Food and Drinks Inc. (EFDI) on an earlier ruling issued by the court.

On Sept. 16, 2011, Associate Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier of the court of Appeals fourth division issued a decision granting the petition for certiorari filed by TC Pharmaceutical Industry Company Ltd. (TCPI) of Thailand and nullified the writ of preliminary injunction issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 227 Judge Santiago M. Arceta who stopped TCPI from choosing a new distributor of Red Bull.

TCPI maintained its exclusive distributorship agreement with EFDI but the latter refused to renew it on Oct. 31, 2009. TCPI then designated Maryland Distributors Inc. as the authorized and exclusive importer of Red Bull in the Philippines until December 2015.

In the latest ruling, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Rebecca de Guia Salvador said Judge Arceta "clearly abused his discretion in issuing the writ of preliminary injunction sought by EFDI on Jan. 19, 2011, and May 16, 2011.

"From the records of the case, neither was EFDI able to show that it would suffer serious and irreparable damage as a consequence of TCPI's termination of the parties agreement," the court said.

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BDO

With Pepe, Pilar in mind, Drilon bats for Sept. school …

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From page A1

the school opening should be rescheduled so as not to coincide with the country's monsoon season.

Its 2010 Online Med Senate Bill No. 2407 seeking to amend the Administrative Code so that the school opening date "shall not be earlier than the first day of September nor later than the last day of October of each year unless prevented by fortuitous events."

The Administrative Code currently gives the secretary of education the discretion to set the opening of classes not earlier than June nor later than the last day of July.

Alarming scenario

"I am suggesting to Education Secretary Armie Luistro that a decision be made because, in my view, all indications would lead to the need to revise our school year for the benefit of everyone," Drilon said, noting that classes in most of Metro Manila were suspended for a week due to torrential rains and flooding the past week.

Citing news reports, Drilon added that 168 schools in flooded areas in Luzon had been converted into evacuation centers to accommodate more than 114,000 families affected by continuous rains.

As of Friday, 244 public schools were being used as evacuation centers for 21,800 families, a spike from the 168 schools turned evacuation sites for 14,400 families on Monday.

More than half or 139 of the schools are in Metro Manila, while 53 are in Calabarzon (Region 4A) and 46 in Central Luzon (Region 3).

"That number is alarming, and what is more disturbing is the fact that just two months since the new school year opened, we are already experiencing a number of these suspensions that could affect the mandated 40 and 36 weeks of classes for elementary and secondary education and in the collegiate level, respectively," Drilon said.

The chair of the Senate committee on finance cited the administration's efforts to improve the country's education system enshrined on Rep. 10 and Rep. 12 programs, but said the program would be for naught if class suspensions caused by inclement weather continued.

"We have this new K-12 system in place, so that students [would] have more years to study and prepare themselves [for] work," Drilon said.

"However, these suspensions of classes, if not addressed decisively, would affect the quality of graduates we intend to produce," he added.

Classes by Monday

In a related development, the education department has appealed to communities to help clear up over the weekend the more than 200 public schools used as evacuation centers for over 30,000 families affected by the floods so that classes can resume on Monday.

In a phone interview, Education Assistant Secretary Jesus Mateo yesterday urged families temporarily staying in the evacuation centers to take care of the school facilities "so that we can return to our lively spirits."

"The schools have been damaged either by the floods or during the evacuation process, he said.

"We're coordinating with community leaders, if there are no more floods by today (Aug. 10), the evacuees can return home or transfer to other facilities in the barangay and we can resume classes by Monday," Mateo said.

Normalcy

"The sooner we can bring back normalcy, the better for our students," he said, adding that the Department of Education (DepEd) had left it to the school division superintendents in every city and province to decide how best to make up for the lost school days due to frequent class suspensions.

Schools are required to fill in a total of 180 school days each year.

Mateo also appealed to local government officials and members of the community to help school personnel and teachers in cleaning up the schools over the weekend.

"Let's go back to Brigada Eskwela," he said, referring to the DepEd's annual school clean-up program every start of classes in June. "Our schools are set for DepEd. The community owns those schools so they should be taking care of [them]," Mateo said.

The DepEd has also launched a relief drive for evacuees by offering to receive donations at its central office in Pasig City until Aug. 17.

The Daily Gospel

Saturday, August 11, 2012
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 1:1-2:4

But you, are you not Yahweh from past ages? You, my holy God, you cannot die. You have set this people to correct your justice, you have made them firm as a rock to fulfil your punishment.

I don't look with favor on the one who puts my/the upright, on the other hand, will live by his faithfulness.

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-20

A man approached Jesus, knelt before him and said, "Sir, have pity on my son who is an epileptic and is in a wretched state...he has often fallen into the fire and at other times into the water. I brought him to your disciples but they could not heal him."

Jesus replied, "You, faithless and evil people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus commanded him sharply, so he came to the boy, and he was immediately healed.

The disciples then approached Jesus in private and asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out the spirit?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have little faith. I tell you truly, if only you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could tell that mountain to move from here to there, and the mountain would move. Nothing would be impossible to you."

Reflection

St. Lawrence was martyred in Rome in 258 during the persecutions under the Roman emperor Valerian. As was among the seven deacons serving Pope St. Sixtus II, who was martyred four days before Lawrence. When he was challenged to hand over the Church's treasure to the authorities, he asked for a few days' grace, then "he went all over the city, seeking out in every street the poor who were supported by the Church, and each relieved as other was so well organized. On the third day, he gathered together a great number of them before the church and placed them in rows like the rungs of a ladder. Then, when the martyrdom was refused, he replied, the lame, the maimed, the lepers, orphans and widows, these by merit in the prefect, counted him to come and see the treasure of the Church." Many conversions to Christianity through our Savior reportedly followed after Lawrence's death, including those of several of senators witnessing his execution on a gridiron.

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NOTICE OF LEASE

The HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC) is offering for short-term lease its leasehold rights on the following properties located in Cebu Asia Pioneer Cebu (BPO 2), Barangay Cita, on "what is left" through public bidding:

Property	Floor Area (sqm)	Lot Area (sqm)	Location	Minimum Monthly Lease Rate per sqm
A. THE SQUARE				
Event's Building	2,114	2,519	Lot 5, Applicable St., Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 9.00
Building 4(2)	440	640	Lot 6, Applicable St., Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 10.00
Building 4(1)	184	640	Lot 6, Applicable St., Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 10.00
Undeveloped Land	---	2,253	Lot 6, Applicable St., Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 10.00
Parking Area	---	3,600	Lot 10, Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 9.00
Bingo Feeds	1,779	6,300	Lot 9, Old, Nos. 10, Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 9.00
Parks and Plaza	---	5,177	Lot 6, Time Square Commercial Center, BPO 2	$ 9.00
B. TRIBUTE LOTS				
Lot 1-A	---	18,510	Corregidor Road, Tribute Center, BPO 2	$ 1.37
Lot 1-B	---	8,175	Corregidor Road, Tribute Center, BPO 2	$ 1.37
Lot 1-C	---	3,600	Corregidor Road, Tribute Center, BPO 2	$ 1.37
Lot 5	600	22,500	Corregidor Road, Tribute Center, BPO 2	$ 1.37
C. EL RANCHO	---	196,140	Mandawa Heights, El Rancho Road, BPO 2	$ 1.37

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. The terms of the properties shall be on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis.
2. All facilities are expected to be inspected the properties before submitting their bids.
3. Bid documents (Lease Proposal Form, Buyer's Information Sheet, and Profile of the properties including existing location maps) can be secured from the Asset Management Department located at the 4th Floor, Julio Building, 105 Sct Rizal Avenue, Makati City for a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.
4. Terms of Payment
   - Minimum Security Deposit : Equivalent to two (2) months lease rental
   - Minimum Advance Rental : Equivalent to two (2) months lease rental
   - Minimum Escalation Rate : 21 Subarea / Tribute Bay Lots: 6.0% per annum
     Time Square Properties: 6.0% every 5 yrs
5. Bidders are required to pay a bid security in Cash or Cashier's/ Manager's Check amounting to P 10,000.00 before Bidder offer would be accepted. The bid security shall form part of the required security deposit for the winning bidder. For the unsuccessful bidders, the bid security shall be refunded after the award of lease to the winning bidder.
6. The sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the Asset Management Department, 4th Floor, Julio Building, 105 Sct Rizal Avenue, Makati.
7. Schedule of Activities

Activities	Date / Time
Issuance of Bid Documents	August 13 to 17, 20 (1, 8:00am to 5:00pm)
Pre-Bid Conference	August 22, 2012, 1:00 pm at the HGC Cebu Office (Wednesday)
	August 23, 2012, 1:00 pm at the HGC Makati Office (Thursday)
Submission and Opening of Bid Documents	August 24, 2012, on or before 2:00 pm (Friday)

8. The award of lease covering the properties shall be based on the offer determined to be the most advantageous to the Corporation.

For inquiries, please call our Asset Management Department at 886-0333 or 637-3100 or visit our Office at Julio Building, 105 Sct Rizal Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
Vice President
Asset Management and Disposition Group

Indian national kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf escapes

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN INDIAN national, who was earlier reported to have been executed by Abu Sayyaf bandits, walked out of the jungles of Sulu before dawn yesterday alive and free more than a year after his kidnapping, a police official said.

Senior Supt. Antonio Parayno, Sulu police director, said Sibi Kishen Wenli, 36, escaped from his captors in the hinterlands of Patikul, Sulu, after they fell asleep on Thursday night.

"It's Ramadan. Maybe they got tired after fasting and fell asleep. (Wenli) saw the opportunity and escaped," Parayno said in an interview.

"He was never bound by ropes during his captivity and only three to six bandits guarded him. They were not with the main Abu Sayyaf group," he added.

Parayno said he asked Wenli and his Filipino wife if they paid any ransom but the couple denied it, saying they did not have money.

Wenli was abducted on June 22, 2011, while visiting his Filipino in-laws at Barangay Tongsok, Patikul, Sulu.

"His kidnappers introduced themselves as policemen when they were not known," Parayno said.

Parayno said: continues of Barangay Ratilan Mampakan in Patikul saw the victim walking along a road between 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. yesterday.

Chief Supt. Macie Avendaño, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said Wenli is now under the custody of the Sulu provincial police office where he is undergoing medical checkup and debriefing.

The group is believed to be holding Amerilim, Malaysian and Japanese nationals in their jungle hideouts. *With reports from Jude Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao and AP*

Pagasa forecast: Expect more monsoon rains

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THINGS weekend, the southwest monsoon, locally known as hanging habagat, will continue to bring intermittent and thunderstorms over Northern Luzon and Central Luzon, including the threat of flash floods and landslides as people in the two regions continue normality to flash from after this week's floods.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said northeasterly and easterlies in the two regions, particularly Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Cordillera, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bataan, will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The weather will become cloudy with widespread rains in the western part of the region, the state weather service said.

Pagasa warned residents of these provinces about flash floods in low-lying areas and landslides in mountainous areas.

Low pressure area

Weather forecaster Raymond Ordinario reported that a low pressure area (LPA) had been seen east of the country, still very far but moving toward the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

"We expect it to form and enter the PAR by Monday or Tuesday," Ordinario said. "But we only expect it to pass through the PAR as we do not think it would affect any part of the country."

Cloudy skies

The skies in the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over Luzon and coastal waters will be moderate to rough. However, winds will be light to moderate coming from the south to southwest with slight to moderate seas.

Among to gale force winds is anticipated to affect the northern and western seaboards of Northern Luzon and the western seaboard of Central Luzon.

Very rough seas

The seas off the western seaboards of Northern Luzon and Central Luzon, particularly Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales and Bataan, as well as the northern seaboard of Northern Luzon in Cagayan are expected to be rough to very rough, Pagasa said.

Pagasa advised fishermen and operators of small seacraft not to venture out to sea. Larger seacraft must watch out for big waves. With reports from Amy R. Reyes

Napocor: Don't blame dams

PEOPLE in Pangasinan have been blaming the floods in some towns in the province on the release of water from San Roque Dam as Typhoon "Gener" passed through on late July and the southwest monsoon dumped rains for three days earlier this week.

But Ilocos-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) yesterday said the release of water from the dam followed course in flooding.

"On the contrary, the dam mitigated the flood in Pangasinan," said Romualdo Ilo, T. Beltran, manager for dams, reservoirs and flood forecasting of Napocor. "The floods would have been significantly worse were it not for the flood control benefit of San Roque Dam."

Beltran said Napocor records would show that at the height of Typhoon "Gener" and the monsoon rains, the dam's reservoir temporarily stored close to 500 million cubic meters of water, preventing the floods in it was below the dam from gaining worse.

Strict procedures

Beltran said Napocor strictly complied with the procedures for releasing water when it started to spill water from the dam on Aug. 2.

The spillgauges only after the water elevation in the dam had reached 276 meters above sea level (masl). Beltran said. "The rules require that water be released before the elevation reaches the normal high level of 280 masl, Beltran said.

Beltran assured the public that it was Napocor's policy to ensure that water releases from the dams poised no danger to life and property.

Pagasa reported yesterday that four dams in Luzon continued to release water to ease critical levels. In two of the dams, the water elevation reached normal high level, Pagasa said.

As of 7 p.m., Ambuklao Dam in Benguet had 751.58m above, although the safe level, at 751.00 meters, was slightly lower than the normal 752 meters, Pagasa hydrologist Jun Past said.

Binga Dam in Itogon province had two gates open as it reached the water level, at 574.13 m, was lower than the normal high level of 575 m, Past said.

Easing critical levels

He said San Dam in Sultan opened and shut its gate during the past three days to ease critical levels. Yesterday, Past said, the gate was closed at 4 a.m. and it was opened at 11 a.m. with the water level at 574.5m, above the normal high level of 575.00 m.

Past said the water level of La Mesa Dam in Quezon City continued to go down, and was recorded yesterday at 78.31 m, below the spilling level of 80.15 meters.

Past said water levels at Angat Dam in Bulacan and Magat Dam in Isabela had reached normal high levels, but the dams were keeping their gates open as their reservoirs were ready to start receiving more liquid. Reports from Amy R. Reyes and Jeannette I. Andrade

P-Noy chopper forced to land on SCTEx

From page A1

reservation owners in Central Luzon, surprised local folks on his way to Tarlac when his convoy of helicopters made an unscheduled landing near the highway.

Heavy rain and poor visibility forced the group of three military and two civilian helicopters carrying the President and Cabinet officials to make an emergency landing at the Limits exit of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway at Pampan, Tarlac around 9 a.m. Mr. Aquino was on his way to an evacuation center in Bamban at the time.

"I came in a little late," the President said in flood victims shelttering at the Aquilo evacuation center in Pampan. "When the helicopter was about to land, the thing they call ceiling [cloud ceiling] were down."

"The President is fine. Every one is fine. No one was injured," Communication Secretary Ricardo Carandang said by phone. "While we were in Tarlac, it rained in rain and the visibility became poor. The pilots made a decision to land."

Brig. Gen. Ramon Gloon, commander of the Presidential Security Group, said the chief ceiling were down so the party was nearing Tarlac. "So in for on the safe side, we landed the choppers before it started to rain," he said.

This is the President on the helicopter: Jose Joel Villanueva of the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority and Interior Sec. Jesse Edgardo Angeles, according to Carandang.

Carandang said he was on another chopper with Energy Secretary Jose Almendras, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Akbayan spokesperson Risa Hontiveros.

From the edge of the freeway, the presidential party monitored the evacuation center in Bongat.

Evacuees' needs

Mr. Aquino told the evacuees that he brought along Cabinet officials, mentioning Robredo and Singson, so we know they were doing, and look into their short-term and long-term needs.

"I'm very glad to see you on alive and smiling, at that, despite the disaster," Mr. Aquino said. "We're assured that the government is ready to help everything."

From Bongat, the presidential party proceeded to Sta. Lucia High School in Capas, Tarlac, to meet the evacuees there.

Mr. Aquino thanked the local officials and the private organizations that responded and to the flood victims.

The President said he expected more international aid to pour in for the evacuees.

"Our government is ready. We still have funds for calamities and we can update our response funds to take care of all of you," Mr. Aquino said.

The President also visited evacuation centers in Dinalupihan, Bataan; San Fernando, Pampanga, and Bamban, Tarlac.

The government would as well to the needs of flood victims in evacuation centers in many parts of Luzon, Mr. Aquino said.

Twenty-eight of the 40 barangays in Dinalupihan were submerged in floodwaters.

Dinalupihan Mayor Jose Jaime Reyeme asked for budget allocation from the President to finance repairs on dams and schools damaged by the flooding.

Help for Pampanga

Mr. Aquino were mirrored in San Fernando, Pampanga, home province of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to assure flood victims there of assistance government assistance.

In Hagonoy, Bulacan, the President told flood victims that the government would undertake projects that would mitigate, if not stop, flooding.

"We're not talking of months here. This is an extensive project and it has many components. This will probably take years to complete. But the same, we'll try to mitigate the floods," Mr. Aquino said.

The President helped in distributing goods at the evacuation centers he visited.

116 villages flooded

In its latest report, the provincial disaster risk reduction and management council (PDRRMC) said 116 of the 500 villages in 16 of 17 towns and Tarlac City are flooded. The floods affected 65,000 people (15,600 families).

Discussing the Subig-Subig Wetland Park project in Capas, Mr. Aquino said he wanted to see how plans for the project, which would improve the dam's water containment capacity.

Mr. Aquino inspected the

people of his home province that the government was looking for permanent solutions for the perennial floods.

Permanent shelters

He made the same assurance in Bongat earlier, focusing on the construction of permanent evacuation centers for Barangays Gabaldon, Apalit and San Isidro.

Bongat Mayor Miguel Fidella said his town had been at the receiving end of inland river systems that drained to Lingayen Gulf.

In the afternoon, the President inspected in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga to assure residents that funds are available to help them recover and to rehabilitate disaster-stricken areas.

"We have funds for any quick response. The government is ready to help," Mr. Aquino said some 1,000 evacuees in Sta. Ni. the Elementary School in San Fernando.

HVP in Pampanga

Businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan revealed to Pampanga governor and chairman of the flood parks to flood victims in the province and the town of Sto. Tomas, Manila and his businesses in Spain.

Magnified, an affiliate company of Pangilinan's Metro Pacific Investment Corp., also donate a large cash to Sto. Tomas to distribute to evacuees. Reports from Yolette Orgas, Jo Maureen Clemente and Carmela Rico-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon, and TJ Burgonio in Manila

'Lepto' drug prices stable, says DOH

By Kristine L. Alave and TJ Burgonio

THE PRICES of essential medicines, including that of doxycycline, the antibiotic drug used to treat leptospirosis, remain stable, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

In a statement, the DOH said "the supply and prices of essential medicines, including antibiotics such as amoxicillin and doxycycline remain stable as of now. The public is assured that the DOH has set the prices of paracetamol, cotrimoxazole, amoxicillin and doxycycline."

According to Dr. Irma Bettoy, a medical officer of the DOH Bureau of Centers for Pharmaceutical Access and Management, which monitors drug prices, the price of doxycycline remains at the recommended range of P2 to P3.75.

On Thursday, President Aquino said a drug company had increased the price of doxycycline by 750 percent in anticipation of the increased demand for it. The drug is used to treat leptospirosis, a bacterial infection that usually affects people with open sores who come in contact with the urine and feces of rats in floodwaters.

Palace stands by P-Noy

The DOH said 2,603 people had been diagnosed with leptospirosis during the first seven months of the year, higher than the 887 cases reported during the same period last year. It added that 97 people had died from the ailment this year.

However, the DOH had not monitored any pharmaceutical firm that charged more for the antibiotic drug.

"Based on our monitoring, [the cost of doxycycline] is within our price range," the DOH said, adding that it "continues to hold private distributors and "treasurer" or hoarded drugs.

"It's a bit unfair," Bettoy said of the information that President Aquino got about the spike in the price of doxycycline. But the DOH official acknowledged it was possible that rogue retailers pushed the prices upward to take advantage of the demand.

But Malacañang yesterday said it was standing by President Aquino's statement on the matter, saying that the price of the drug for leptospirosis.

There is ample supply of the drug, Bettoy said of the drug that is manufactured by both local and multinational companies based in the Philippines.

Bettoy also urged the public to report to the DOH drug stores that sell the drug beyond the recommended price. "They have to document it, record where they bought it, when and how much they paid for it," she said.

Responsible pricing

The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), meanwhile, urged the government and the public that prices of medicines, especially those needed during calamities, remain stable.

PHAP Executive Director Benito "Ito" Clave said that based on his observation from their members, the prices of essential drugs have remained the same as those at the standard/same level, and that the distribution channels of the medicines have remained steady.

"We have continued with manufacturing prices of medicines, specifically those needed in times of disasters, have been the same. Our members practice responsible pricing especially during calamities in support of the government and in showing solidarity with those affected by natural disasters," said PHAP President Carlito Galvez.

DOH investigating

Communication Secretary Ricardo Carandang said the initial information from the health department "suggested" that it was the drug company that set the high price. He added, however, that the DOH was now investigating if the initiative had been coordinated with the increase in the price.

In a text message, Carandang refused to identify the drug company, saying that "hypothetically drugs are made by more than one company and that the DOH is still looking into it."

Health Undersecretary Eric Tayag, who had joined the President in his visits to areas in the capital on Thursday, confirmed that the department has monitored a company that ordered the drug from another in 9 to P50 to P70.

"We're investigating it. We might impose price reduction. The law allows the DOH to reduce prices," he said on Thursday. "We're studying from the field if it's adding to the cost. If it's unjustified, what it's doing is wrong."

Medical teams

Health Secretary Enrique Ona, meanwhile, said the DOH has fielded medical teams to evacuation centers in Metro Manila, Central and Southern Luzon after the floods have subsided.

"Our health teams are assisting our local governments in delivering health services to their constituents, thus providing a sense of security especially by them to completely recover," Ona explained.

In his more than 2,000 text-based (1) to evacuation centers and health centers in the NCR, Central Luzon and the Southern Tagalog regions, the DOH said.

They said the DOH will provide free doxycycline to individuals involved in rescue and relief efforts and residents staying in evacuation centers.

As of Aug. 9, 2012, patients in evacuation centers have complained of acute respiratory infections, febrile illness, skin diseases, minor injuries and diarrhea. Acute respiratory infections comprise 60 percent of medical consultations though no outbreaks were declared, the health department said.

Storm with no name death toll rises to 60

From page A1

more than 300,000 to seek shelter in government evacuation centers.

The floods had largely subsided, allowing people to return to their homes, but water remained waist-deep across a huge area of rice-growing Central Luzon.

The death toll rose to 60 early yesterday after authorities in Pampanga province in Metro manila province, said Benito Ramos, executive director of the NDRRMC.

"The number of casualties has ballooned because the floods are receding and we are beginning to find bodies," Ramos said.

Of the 60 dead, 11 died in landslides, 39 drowned, four were electrocuted, and two died of cardiac arrest. Nine others remained unidentified died of still undetermined causes.

More than 'Gener'

The widespread flooding dated more lives than the 16 that storm Typhoon "Gener" last week.

Tropical Storm Gener also affected 2,492,335 people in 31 cities and 16 provinces, from the Ilocos region in the north to Western Visayas in the central Philippines.

In Central Luzon alone, the rains and the floods caused P1.095 billion in damage to crops and livestock, the agency said.

The death toll is expected to increase further, as the agency's regional offices in Central Luzon has reported five more deaths that have not been tallied by the NDRRMC main office in Manila.

Seven missing

The agency said seven people were still missing as of yesterday morning.

The Philippine Coast Guard said it continued to look for two fishermen who had been reported missing after their boat sank off Baler in Aurora province.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, there were still 29 roads and three bridges that were not passable to all types of vehicles due to flooding in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Western Visayas, the Cordillera Administrative Region and Metro Manila.

Ramos said the agency's main concern now that the storm has dissipated was to assist the cleanup of previously flooded areas and the 716 evacuation centers housing 382,307 people.

"Its vision of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We don't want to have breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Ramos said. "So far, we have yet to hear of any disease outbreak."

The NDRRMC said government and private groups had provided more than P46 million in relief assistance to the flood victims.

But as the skies cleared, the destruction to agricultural crops in Central Luzon became clearer with initial reports showing that Pampanga bore the brunt of the storm's ire.

The NDRRMC-Central Luzon reported that Pampanga had more than P647 million in crop damage, fisheries and livestock. In Bulacan the damage to agriculture reached more than P224 million, and in Zambales more than P43 million.

An initial assessment by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice) placed the damage from the torrential monsoon rains at "a lot less" amount than the P11 billion recorded in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in September 2009.

Insurance conclusion

Philrice chief Belen Beltran de Jr. said in a statement that the rains flooded entire rice areas shortly than during Ondoy. Since then, he said, Filipinos have become more "insurance-conscious."

The group, composed of 63 public and private companies, has conducted an informal survey that produced "encouraging results," Fernandez said.

"It may still be too early to say but so far we have result. Ironic that the damage is very similar to that from Ondoy," Fernandez said.

The government's response to the calamity has caught the attention of the Senate. Sen. Edgardo Angara issued a statement saying that said the Senate would look into the government disaster management plan during deliberations on the proposed P3-trillion budget for next year.

Angara said the Senate would inquire that the plan be anchored on risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation.

'New normal'

If natural calamities such as this week's torrential monsoon rains are indeed the "new normal," then the government ought to consider it imagine it has set done before, Angara said, using Environment Secretary Ramon Paje's description of this week's calamity. With reports from Nino D. Sandoy, Raimond M. Dominguez, Norman Bordadora and AP

P-Noy hails outpouring of aid for flood victims

From page A1

Speaking before evacuees at Sta. Lucia High School in Cainta town, Rizal province, the President also expressed his gratitude to San Miguel Corp. and Yokohama for their donations, and cited Shell and Petron for suspending increases in the prices of their oil products in areas affected by the floods.

"The good news is that while crude prices in the world market are rising, companies like Shell and Petron volunteered, I repeat, volunteered, to delay any scheduled increase in the prices of their products in consideration with our countrymen," he said.

Mr. Aquino also offered to Typhoon Gener victims the government has adequate funds to address emergencies like this.

Subject to looking for permanent solutions, the Bulog Bulog State is designed for irrigation and flood control, and, hopefully, within two months the plan will be presented to us so that the process can be started, and eventually it will be built and floods can be mitigated, "he said.

He said the construction of the P12.billion mega dam in Bulacan would be under way in July this year. It is expected to be operational by 2016, the dam will be 131.2 meters high from the riverbed to the crest and will have a water storage capacity of 625 million cubic meters, irrigation officials said.

The presidential team also moved to the special evacuation centers in Pasiguel, Taytay. Many heavy rains forced their helicopters to land at the Lanang area of the Subic Clark-Tarlac Expressway in Pampa at around 9 a.m. yesterday (Story on Page A1.)

Australian donation

Donors to the country's relief program included the Australian government, which pledged $500,000 (P19 million worth of food and emergency supplies to the Philippine Red Cross and the World Food Programme.

The amount will cover the purchase of 1,000 tons of rice and emergency kits containing medical supplies, mosquito nets and water containers.

The Australian government followed other international agencies that have pledged help for flood victims, including the United States. The US Embassy has provided $100,000 (or P4.2 million) in aid for flood relief.

The US Embassy's Charmers composed of Filipino Rotaract reopened yesterday following three days of closure due to heavy rains and flooding.

Bulk purchasing centers

The government has asked supermarkets and distributors to put up bulk purchasing centers to stem off calls by some relief supply buyers and ease fears of shortages among retail buyers.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said price monitoring on Thursday found that supplies consumers may have outdoors be hoarding the bulk buying of goods for relief operations, which created fears to be connected about "panic buying." Having bulk purchasing centers in supermarkets would ease consumers' concerns and make it more traffic more manageable for relief operations.

A website listing distributors and manufacturers' information would also aid bulk buyers of relief supplies, Domingo said.

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya said the website may be ready in two weeks and a centralized center may also be prepared in metropolitan Manila's major malls.

Prices stable

Domingo said prices and supply of goods have remained generally stable, except for fish and vegetables, amid the implementation of price control in areas under the state of calamity.

Areas declared under state of calamity are the cities of Marikina, Malabon, Manila, Navotas, Valenzuela, Muntinlupa, San Juan, Pasig, Pasay, Caloocan and Pateros in the National Capital Region; the provinces of Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales and Bulacan in Central Luzon; Laguna province; the towns of San Mateo, Tanay, Cainta, Rodriguez and Jala Jala in Rizal province in Calabarzon; the towns of Calauit, El Nido and Concepcion in Palawan province and the town of Mina de Bag in Occidental Mindoro in Mimaropa, and Pangasinan province in Ilocos Region.

The trade official also warned that retailers who would violate the price freeze would be fined P1,000 to P1 million, while their goods may be confiscated.

Litigation process

Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon explained that the 420,000 sacks of white rice, that are and 45,000 bags of Vietnam rice illegally brought into the country through the Subic Bay International Airport would only be donated to the government's relief efforts after the litigation process.

Biazon was responding to Vice President Jejomar Binay's earlier suggestion that the rice seized by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) may be distributed to victims affected by the heavy rains. Binay specifically cited the 420,000 seized bags of illegally imported rice from India and Pakistan.

"I appreciate Vice President Binay's concern for the victims since my constituents are also among them. But those sacks of rice are the subject of litigation. The shipper is claiming that rice. It's still under appeal," Biazon said.

But he added that the BOC had already endorsed an inventory of confiscated goods that had undergone the appropriate process and procedures and were now available for donation, including the containers of used clothing and some rubber boats abandoned by an importer who could not pay the required fees.

For their part, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Flood victims in Metro Manila and nearby provinces when they visit the travel and tourism trade show launched yesterday in Pasay City.

"The organizing committee has decided to donate a percentage of the gate proceeds to the victims of the recent calamity," said Cesar Dias, president of Philippine Tour Operators Association, the organizer of the trade show at SMIC Convention Center. The center also became a drop-off point for donations.

On the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the travel mart, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. said the flooding may have to expect only affected tourism businesses in the capital and other affected areas, but would not dampen its current "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign.

'Open skies' policy

He said the incident only underscored the importance of the government's "open skies" policy, which opened up some of the country's airports to foreign carriers.

"It up to now the only gateway to the Philippines is Metro Manila, the flooding would have posed a bigger problem. But that's no longer true with the policy," he asserted.

The tourism chief also encouraged the public to extend help through the Department of Tourism's relief center at Clarin Hall on Subic Bay International Airport, where ready to cast meals, blankets, towels, toiletries, among other contributions, were being accepted.

In southern Metro Manila, private groups have also banded together to give aid to evacuation centers, including the De La Salle Santiago School school in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa, the student council of San Beda College Alabang School of Law, the Mariwa school in SF Homes Parañaque and, according to Paranaque City Public Information Officer Nelson Lecaroz, the Tambo Elementary School, Parañaque National High School, La Huerta Elementary School and C.E. de Leon Elementary School.

Earlier, the Taguig city government announced redevelopers that they can drop off donations at the Taguig City University auditorium, and at Fredenil College in McKinley Hills.

Free medicines

The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD) said it had distributed P1 million worth of medicines to at least 35 evacuation centers around the locality to prevent the spread of diseases among the refugees.

QCHD head Dr. Annamaria Imperial said they would also be monitoring several city residents who might have contracted leptospirosis by visiting through floodwaters contaminated with rat urine and feces and would be giving them doxycycline tablets.

Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety head Elmo San Diego said the number of evacuees around the city had gone down as some of them returned to their homes when the flood waters started to recede.

San Diego said only 300 families or 1,500 people remain in the 19 evacuation centers in Barangay Bagong Silangan. In the peak of flooding in the barangay, the number of evacuees was recorded at 1,500 families. With reports from Rita T. Dickenson, Bryce Quinsaat, Thea G. Santos, Jocelyn R. Ey, Jeannette I. Andrade and Jayson C. Gozali

Party's over for Pinoy Olympians in London

From page A1

memorable performances in athletics.

Among them was the stunning world record performance of Renaud David Rudisha in the men's 800 meters. Rudisha set a searing pace at the start and broke his own world record, clocking one minute and 40.91 seconds in routing the field.

There was the comeback-to-the-limit run of South Africa's Caster Semenya, once banned from the competition after doubts were raised concerning her gender, in the women's 800 meter semifinals, where she led all qualifiers.

And of course, how can anyone forget Jamaica's lightning Usain Bolt, who struck yet again to complete a supreme treble and lead a 1-2-3 sweep of the men's 200 meters for Jamaica.

Sonepincluster is 5,080

Completing the Jamaican sweep were Bolt's fellow sprinter, Yohan Blake and Warren Weir, both 22 years old. Among any nations they will be celebrated in the great relay.

Here's a poem typical to the saga of Rose Mooers, the Filipino weightlifter who was forced to run in the 5,000 meters because that was the only event still not available for him.

The Games are qualifying standards for all of the events in its program. For the 5,000 meters, the "C" standard is 13 minutes and 20 seconds and the "B" norm is 13 27.00. Mooers's personal best in the event is 14:31.40 and in his bid this year is even slower, 15:01.72. Both are way off the qualifying standards.

But the Olympics has an exception to the rule. It allows countries outside the qualifying standards to still field entries, one woman and one man, in athletics and swimming to ensure all 204 member countries and territories in the Olympic movement can participate.

This exception made it possible for long jumper Henrylito Tenio and swimmers Jessie Khing Lacuna and Jasmine Alkhaldi to also compete in the Games id, though it was clear they will not in the same league as the other Olympians in their events.

It's also why there are Filipinos not qualified to run in the 5,000 meters, it was also clear he belonged in the Games and he, too, is an Olympian, whatever the gods book says.

A petal for each nation

After all the mooers and dancing ended the lighting of the Olympic cauldron few weeks ago, the flame continues to burn in one corner of the Olympic Stadium, hardly noticed by the 80,000 who pack the arena daily.

The flame, consisting of 204 copper petals representing the 204 nations and territories in the Olympic movement, is not as energetic as the cauldron of Beijing in 2008, no atmosphere is as the words of Athens in 2004, or as cool as the sound as the "Big Ben moment" of Sydney in 2000.

It's not audible from outside the stadium, neither does it dominate the skyline.

But Thomas Heatherwick, who designed the cauldron, said he did not intend for the cauldron to match in size those of the previous Olympics, which he said were the "biggest, highest and loudest."

In terms of sophistication, however, the London flame is unmatched. The 204 petals will each be detailed and given to all participating delegations to bring home as their share of the flame.

PINOY AT LAST Britain's Mo Farah, who placed third, congratulates the Philippines' Rose Mooers after finished last in the men's 5,000-meter heat at the London 2012 Olympic Games on Wednesday. AP PHOTO

Bolt gets another gold in 200m, guns for 3rd in 4x100 relay

From page B1

It's track legend Carl Lewis, who won three golds and a silver in the sprints at the 1984 and 1988 Games.

Earth's greatest sprinter

Bolt's victory blew aside lateral his premature celebration, or gesture in the planet.

Bolt said: "This is the one I wanted and I got it. I'm now a legend. I'm also the greatest athlete to live. I've got nothing left to prove. I've showed the world I'm the best. It's wonderful. Jamaica has proven that we are the greatest sprint country."

As he approached the line, Bolt put his finger to his lips to hush the crowd as he eased up and savored the finish line.

Ahead of Lewis, Owens

Afterwards, Bolt dropped to the track and did push-ups, grabbed a camera and took pictures of Blake, and hugged him, celebrating an achievement which put him ahead of greats such as Lewis and Jesse Owens.

Despite a troubled buildup, Bolt will now also be favored to retain his third title in the 4x100 relay on Saturday.

The only thing missing for Bolt is a new world record.

It was also the first time two individual track titles were successfully defended across consecutive Games since Holland's Fanny Blankers-Koen did 4,000 meters and 80,000 meters at the Munich and Montreal Games in 1972 and 1976.

Bolt led a Jamaican clean sweep of the medals. Blake took the silver in 19.44 seconds and Warren Weir claimed a check bronze in 19.84 seconds.

The only thing missing from the race was a new world record for Bolt, but he revealed he had felt a twinge of back pain during the race.

"I could feel the strain on my back a little bit so still did two try to keep my form, run home and when I saw where I was going I stopped running because I knew it wasn't going to be a world record," he said.

Dazzling camera flashes

Running in lane seven, Bolt made an explosive start and was up on Weir in the lane outside him within five paces.

As he rounded the bend, Blake briefly threatened from lane four, but tenth cleared, eyes on the big screen and at full tilt. Bolt was by enough to slow down a full 10 metres from the line, resting his fingers on his lips.

A surge of excitement followed him around the stadium, accompanied by dazzling camera flashes and chants of "Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt!"

When he completed his lap, Bolt got on his knees and kissed the South line, then threw himself up and did his trademark "Lightning Bolt" pose, pausing at two grinning officials to sign post.

JAMAICAN UNITED Jamaica's gold medal winner Usain Bolt, center, celebrates with teammates Warren Weir, left, and Yohan Blake after the men's 200 meter final during the athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London on Thursday. AP

Bolt crossed himself and leapt onto the podium to receive his gold medal, then threw his flowers to the crowd after the anthem before departing with one final bow.

World record holder

The London Games were Bolt's fourth global championship since 2008.

He has won six titles in the seven individual events in which he has competed, but one blip coming when he was disqualified from the Daegu world championship 100 meters Final last year after a false start.

Bolt, who the world record holder in both the 100 and 200 meters, now not quite his usual playful self in the moments after he crashed on an air of nervousness permeating a silenced stadium as he offered a regal, like wave.

Amid the tangible tension, he briefly crossed himself and appeared to pray before striding into his blocks, times the gun sounded, a determined Bolt pulled out all the stops to burn off his rivals.

Apart from Bolt, eight more—Andrew Mehar (1984), Ralph Craig (1912), Harry Williams (1920), Eddie Tolan (1932), Jesse Owens (1936), Bobby Morrow (1956), Valery Borzov (1972) and Carl Lewis (1984)—have won the sprint double, at the same Olympics, but only Owens and Lewis have successfully defended the 100 meters.

Bolt missed out on his chance of a "double-double" when the 100 meters was dropped from the 1906 Games and Lewis, also having upgraded to 100 meter champion in Seoul following Ben Johnson's disqualification, lost to Ki Gwang-Hyon for Dolcash in the 200 meters.

Bolt, the 100 and 200 meters champion at the Beijing Games, has now eclipsed the record of Lewis, the US track legend who won three golds and a silver in the sprints at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics.

'I'm the greatest'

Bolt showed lots of latent crowd-pleasing antics throughout and was rubbished in the moments before the race when pallpublic tension gripped the crowd waiting to witness his coronation.

He pointed skywards before setting himself and in the roundup the head, Blake briefly threatened but Bolt was not to be denied.

"I've done something that no one has done before, which is defend my double double," Bolt said. "Records belong to me. I would say I'm the greatest ever."

His opponents weren't about to disagree.

Just an icon

"The guy is just an another planet right now," said Bolt's defeated fellow Sportsman of the United States.

Bolt's winning time of 19.32 seconds was outside his own world record. He said he wasn't as focused as being injured, but International Olympic Committee chief Jacques Rogge wasn't ready to bestow Bolt title even after the 200-meter win.

"Let him participate in three, four games, and he may be a legend. Already he's an icon," Rogge said. Reports Pinoy, AFP, AP and Reuters

Curiosity sends postcards from edges of Mars

From page A1

annual of beyond such as search the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said on Thursday.

The Jesuit-born, named Mr. Hoey, stands a new copy of the vast, ancient unpaper cases and several miles from where Curiosity touched down at the end of an eight-month voyage across 560 million kilometers of space.

Mars' geologic history

The layers of exposed rock are thought to hold a wealth of Mars' geologic history, making it the main target of exploration for scientists, who will use the rover to suck evidence of whether the planet once similar to Earth might now harbor or once may have hosted key ingredients for microbial life.

But mission controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Los Angeles are exercising caution immediately following Curiosity's jarring, death-defying descent to the surface on Sunday night.

They plan to spend weeks putting the sudden-powered, six-wheeled rover and its sophisticated array of instruments through a painstaking process of "health checks" before embarking on the thrust of their science mission in earnest.

The $2.5-billion Curiosity project, formally named the Mars Science Laboratory is Nasa's first astrobiology mission since the Viking probes of the 1970s and a vastly more sophisticated mobile geochemistry lab one-tenth as big as a full world.

After three full days on the Red Planet, "Curiosity continues to behave flawlessly" and has "executed all planned activities" without a hitch, mission manager Michael Watkins said.

Equipment checks

The latest round of equipment checks included an instrument designed to determine mineral composition of powdered rock and soil extracted by a drill on the rover's arm, and an atmospheric sample for oxygen components, one to detect traces of water locked in shallow mineral deposits, and another that was part of Nasa's to identify chemical elements in rocks and soils.

Like Mojave Desert

The rosy delivery of Curiosity to the surface of Mars 56 south has been hailed by Nasa as the greatest feat of robotic space flight.

The car-sized rover, which flew from Earth mounted in a protective capsule, blasted into the Martian sky at hypersonic speed and landed safely seven minutes later after an elaborate, daredevil descent combining a giant parachute with a rocket-pack that lowered the rover to the Martian surface on a tether.

Since then, the rover has been sending a string of early images back to Earth, relayed by two Nasa satellites orbiting Mars, providing glimpses of a terrain that scientists say appear reminiscent of the Mojave Desert in Southern California.

Dark pebbles

One shot beamed back Wednesday night, the first taken by Curiosity of itself, shows the rover's top deck strewn with dark pebbles apparently kicked up from the ground when the craft landed. Nasa scientists said the gravel does not appear to pose any risk to instruments on the vehicle.

Two separate high-resolution "Hazcam" images taken of the surface show that three from the sky crane rockets during descent carved out a 0.5 metre swath in the surface, exposing what appears to be Martian bedrock underneath.

When Curiosity wakes up for its fourth day on Mars early Friday (California time), mission controllers plan to conduct additional instrument checks and prepare the craft for an upgrade of its main computer software for surface operations.

Ah-shes in those cells he appended during that upgrade, which will begin on day 5 of the mission and last four days.

Future missions

"It's very exciting to think about getting there, but it is quite a ways away," said engineer Joel Hoey. "Landing on Mars is very difficult."

During the two-year mission, the cruising laboratory will analyze rocks and soil in search of the chemical building blocks of life, and determine whether there were habitable conditions when the environment could support microbial life.

As high-tech as Curiosity is, it can't directly look for past or present life; future missions would be needed to answer that question.

Curiosity is the most complex interplanetary rover ever designed, and engineers are using their time performing health checkings. The rover will not make its first drive to assess its wheels on for weeks. Reports from Reuters and AP

Indonesian, 4 Pinoys charged with smuggling

By Jeannette Andrade

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has charged an Indonesian national and four Filipinos in connection with the alleged smuggling into the country of 17 monkeys of a species categorized as "vulnerable".

DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Ricel Divino said a charge of violation of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act has been filed against Jeanneles Pesos Ferrer, 28, who gave his address as Rio Tinoring, of Sitio Tinoring, Barangay Lagao, General Santos City. He suspected Filipino cohorts were Mark John Villeza Jalandoni Gamolera, John Steven, alias Miguel.

Divino said the group was charged after 17 Indonesian macaques were seized from their possession by joint teams from the department and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group on Wednesday.

The DENR officer said the monkeys in question were apparently smuggled out of Indonesia and brought to General Santos City on a fishing boat without the appropriate permits from the Indonesian government.

They will be used for film repatriated to their natural habitat in Sulawesi, environment officials said.

The Sulawesi macaque is endemic to Sulawesi and its nearby islands in Indonesia. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical dry forests. It is named for its soft, black-like fur. It has curved, sharp-pointed claws and a long tail. The head is broad and flat with inconspicuous ears and a short snout.

Unfortunately, two days after the rescue boars were recovered, Divino said two of the unique macaques died. The DENR Region 12 Protected Areas and Wildlife Division has sought the help of the region of veterinarian quarantine office for a check-up of the other rescued animals.

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WALK for DIABETES AWARENESS
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In view of the widespread flooding in the country, the proceeds of this event intended for disease awareness will also be used to assist the calamity victims. Free medical and health screening services will be open at the Diabetes Awareness Event Area of Mercury Drug Global City on August 11-12, 2012 for all in need of medical and screening assistance.

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to Mercury Drug Foundation Inc., as you hold your Diabetes Awareness Event, and its highlight, the Walk for Diabetes Awareness.

Healthcare is a leading component of the government's agenda of equitable progress. As you walk for diabetes awareness, your strides accelerate our efforts to improve the health of our citizens. May this occasion meet its objectives in tackling one of the more prevalent concerns in our country. Your efforts to promote awareness of diabetes and its proper management will go a long way for the progress of patient care and the treatment of this disease.

The story of Mercury Drug is an inspiring model of entrepreneurship in line with public service and nation-building. Indeed, your achievements as a truly consumer-oriented enterprise are commendable...as relevant to the post-war era as it is in our era of daylight. May you continue to triumph as you forge on for the benefit of our economy and the public's welfare.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO

MANILA
11 August 2012

Today, we launch our Disease Awareness Program with a Walk For Diabetes Awareness. This is Mercury Drug Foundation's humble endeavour to complement the healthcare initiatives of the Office of the President, the Department of Health and healthcare professionals to create the needed awareness about diabetes – now a silent epidemic – for early disease prevention or proper management.

Mercury Drug Foundation joins hands in this endeavour with the government, Philippine Medical Association, Diabetes Philippines, Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation Inc., Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation and American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Philippines as well as with pharmaceutical business partners.

Together, we pursue a common cause for the health of the nation!

MARIANO QUE
Founder & Chairman
Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc.

Walk & Help Stop Diabetes

Walk & Help Stop Diabetes is a signature disease awareness program of Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Rainy-day heroes

EDITORIAL

LET US now praise not so famous men, the unsung wet heroes of this week's torrential flooding. We refer to the rescue teams and hospital workers who logged long hours and went beyond the call of duty to come to the aid of those trapped in the worst flooding since "Ondoy." We especially refer to the ordinary citizens who set aside their own comforts and even their own safety in order to come to the help of others.

At the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center, staff and volunteers overcame parlous out of harm's way as floodwaters stampeded into the wards. Timely thirteen calls sounded by the hospitals immediately drew an outpouring of support and assistance from the Philippine Army, civil defense and ordinary folk.

Over at Tandang and Barangay Sienna in Quezon City, both poor man's theaters and well-appointed residences were inundated. People fled their homes and found shelter at the Santa Domingo Church, which became a refugee center overnight. The scene was repeated in other churches and schools elsewhere in Luzon. Trapped commuters sought safety in the best-kept and -appointed churches and caregivers in their localities, which opened their doors to a mass of refugees and tried to nurse them back to sanity and security after the trauma of flooding.

Even at the height of the extended monsoon rains, there were the daredevils who risked life and limb to rescue people caught in the torrent.

Judge Ralph Lee again put his jet skiing prowess to humanitarian use by rescuing flood victims around Novaliches, Quezon City. "This is like Ondoy all over again; the floods are everywhere," said Lee of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 83. He was referring to his feat in 2009 when he hauled his aunty jet ski out of his garage, drove into the flooded areas around his home in Fairview, Quezon City, and rescued at least 100 people. This time, he was not alone; with him on the rescue missions were his two sons and six other young men. His rescue method and his daring have caught on. There were many examples like Lee's in Zambales, Pampanga, and elsewhere.

But it is quite heartbreaking that not young men taking respite from swimming to the rescue of several trapped victims could only sigh at the sheer loneliness and fatigue of the enterprise. If only someone could give me hot coffee, he told a reporter shyly like just the same, he plunged into the current to continue his rescue mission. Happily he survived the ordeal.

We remember Madrisar Magallanes, who died during Ondoy's onslaught in 2009 after saving the lives of 30 of his family and neighbors. Taking time to catch his breath and recover his strength, he clung to a shanty that, however, collapsed in the force of the raging waters and dragged him to his death. Because of his heroism, Time magazine included him in its Top 10 Heroes that year.

Other heroes this week include the Netizens who passed alerts and mobilized rescue and relief through Twitter and Facebook. They also included volunteers who sprang into action and defied the raging current to get to relief centers and deliver medical meals, packed goods, and potable water. In the hour of extreme emergency, they didn't fail their fellowmen.

Some of the rescuers are unheroes who cashed in on the floods, but made certain risks and sacrifices that generally helped many people. Drivers of motorized pedicabs on Taft Avenue jacked up their prices and made a killing. But they also helped people desperate to get home.

Of course, the perennially poor public works and traffic maladroits on Taft Avenue and the rest of the metropolis should realize everyone wonders whether organized chaos is being perpetrated on the streets in order to institutionalize flooding. We in dry season, Metro Manila knows are simply inhospitable to the general public. Commuters and pedestrians are prey to vultures in and out of the government.

It has been a week of emergency and drama, a week when the Filipino spirit was once more proven unshakable. But the government should not congratulate itself. It should not escape the blame. Pagasa's sensitive forecasting was still lacking, civil defense subs were running even in Quezon City, and flood control and public works were a mess as always. Citizens should not cover up for official corruption and mismanagement. Heroines should not mask government follies.

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Blurred consensus

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IF EVERYONE thinks in lock-up [he did], then a person does not live." This Ghanaian proverb describes a paradox that underpins today's fractious debate over the Reproductive Health bill. Seemingly irreconcilable differences blur deep-rooted agreements.

In the public "record" were the RH bill, Archbishop Socrates Villegas hinted that the youth "might be left on the fringes, as usual, to be voiceless spectators... [They may] grow cynical because we schools cannot agree."

Yet, supporters and critics do agree on major issues. Both spurn abortion, for example. Section 12 of the RH bill prohibits "abortion in illegal and punishable by law" all welcome this provision. "All women needing care for post-abortion complications shall be treated and counseled in a humane, nonjudgmental and compassionate manner."

We're not a monotheocratic nation, like North Korea. Filipinos freely hold diverse creeds. And religious affiliations in the Catholic realm make up 80.9 percent of the population, Muslims 5 percent, evangelicals 2.8 percent, Iglesias ni Cristo 2.3 percent, Aglipayan 2 percent, other Christians 4.3 percent. Those with other religious affiliations made up 1.9 percent, unspecified 0.4 percent, and none 0.1 percent.

To maintain unity amid diversity, the Constitution mandates respect for religious liberty—within a structure that divides church and state. Fr. Joaquin Bernas of Ateneo Law School notes: "[All such] a government law from religious dictates because it seeks to religion... [or] silencing values that come from religion, but are not commonly held, will divide the nation."

Catholic bats, therefore, howl the "Vatican Tune." But they cannot impose that on cyclical-or-not Aglipayan Muslim-or-not lawyers like Senate and Health. But they're on right to charge that on a Buddhist or an INC follower.

"Those responsible for government are required to interpret the common good of their country," points out the World Doctrine of the Catholic Church Compendium. But surely by the majority though. It must seek "the effective good of all the members of the community, including the minority."

Advocates and critics of the RH bill cannot on nothing nonsense the scandal of rising but preventable maternal deaths. Indeed, "the issue of maternal deaths is a serious concern," the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Archbishop Jose Palma stressed. But the solution does not lie in suppressing births as provided in the RH bill, he said.

"Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur," responded Fr. Joaquin Bernas of the Philippines' economists in their paper, "Population, Poverty, Politics and the RH Bill." They said: "What is freely asserted may be freely denied." Look instead at the hard data documenting a tragic 52 boys to death rates (for mothers).

Flabby responsible parenthood programs schisted maternal deaths too stanchly have. In 1990, deaths of mothers stood at 209 for every 100,000 live births. That dwindled to 162 deaths in 2006—more than quadruple that of Thailand or Malaysia.

In Scandinavian countries, the risk of a woman dying during or following pregnancy is 1 in 9,200. One Swedish daughter in law's eyes widowed when we told her: "It is 1 in 11 here." Yet, responding to the unmet need for family planning could slash the number of maternal deaths by almost a third.

More can be done to save mothers from premature graves or kids from being orphaned. "We are each other's harvest ... each other's magistrate and bond." Ironically more much on-die today.

The maternal mortality ratio surged to 221 per 100,000 live births, sociologist Mary Racelis noted. Since 2011, the National Statistics Office found, 11 mothers have died every day due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth... up from 11 three years back.

Underground abortions account for 11 percent of maternal deaths, the UP Population Institute estimates. Roughly 500,000 abortions are induced yearly. Only 90,000 mothers get postabortion care. In 2008, about half of 1.1 million pregnancies were unintended. One in four of unschooled teenagers begin childbearing, compared with only 3 percent of those who have attended college or higher. "Pregnancy rate among teenaged girls rose from 39 per 1,000 between 8 and 54 per 1,000 recently."

Despite pumping of this past to birth, both critics and advocates of the RH bill agree: So one need be cast into the exterior darkness. There is good will on all sides.

When deeds speak, words are nothing. "the African proverb says. Look at Mountain Province and Camiguin. There, local governments units and the Church cooperate in population programs that respect each other's sphere.

Ninety percent of 58 parishes and chaplaincies here trained more than 2,000 natural family planning volunteer counselors," wrote Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ. "Over 12,000 couples were served. On request from government, the archdiocese made available 909 trainers, training manuals which include values formation. [CBCP-based counselors or clerics and not aside their own budgets for the promotion of NFP."

Assuring the LGUs a engagement, Ledesma wrote. "We keep the Church's NFP program separate, not dependent, on LGUs which trained 7/11 NFP service providers in 63 barangays." To help couples reach responsible choice "is a paramount apostolate."

The language evokes the Good Shepherd image. Church and government in Cagayan de Oro exemplify unity in service and Solidity to values. Once that shared cooperation point a way out of today's policy deadlock? "That they all may be one. Father, let them be one in us, that in you, that they also may be one in us," the Master prayed on the night before his death.

(E-mail: jmercado7@yahoo.com)

Is getting De Lima short-listed worth the cost?

GET REAL

Sofia Cobar-Monsod

AS I write this column, the Judicial and Bar Council is scheduled to decide whether or not to lay its disqualification rules, as proposed by Rep. Niel Tupas, before it decides on the short list of candidates for chief justice to be submitted to PNoy.

Only time will tell if it does amend—as whatever other description will be used, like "suspend"—these rules, the JBC's name will be mud, having lost its credibility and shelved it until to be a politicized, rather than independent, constitutional body. If they will be persuaded to do so, it will be because they succumb to intimidating with and disbanding the selection process by the judiciary; and the Philippines will suffer another blow to its governance rankings insofar as the international community is concerned.

Is getting Leila de Lima's name on the short list really worth all that cost? Because that's what it seems to be all about, Alba.

Let's look at the situation. The present JBC rules on disqualification, as approved by the council way back in 2006 under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, are:

"SECTION 3. Disqualifications. The following are disqualified from being nominated for appointment to any judicial post so as Ombudsman or Deputy Ombudsman:

"1. Those with pending criminal or regular administrative cases;

"2. Those with pending criminal cases in foreign courts or tribunals; and

"3. Those who have been convicted in any criminal case; or in an administrative case, where the penalty imposed is at least a fine of more than P10,000, unless he has been granted judicial clemency."

The JBC has, to my knowledge, been very strict in implementing these rules, under its Rule IV, dealing with integrity. The Reader is reminded that Justice Bernardo Pardo, Justice Abraham Gleeria Sharapaul, Antonio Jardeleza were very (or solicitor general, as she was both), and a candidate for the Supreme Court was disqualified by the JBC despite pressures supposedly applied by Malacañang and all kinds of pleas from Bernardeles. Because there was at least one case pending against her.

Then there's the case of Justice Tim. The general belief is that PNoy wants Justice Secretary De Lima to be chief justice, but first he has to get her name on the JBC short list. Which, given the rules, is an impossibility because De Lima has a couple of Ombudsman cases against her. But for her (his Secretariat) is trying to make the impossible possible.

FIGE. In exerting pressure on the integrated Bar of the Philippines to get the disbarment case dismissed (I am told by unimpeachable sources that the members of the IBP board of governors were approached by various parties supposedly close to Malacañang, and asked to cooperate). It is to their everlasting credit that the vote was unanimous that the disbarment cases be fully investigated. I am also apprised that the vote in the Supreme Court to refer the disbarment cases to the IBP was also unanimous, as it wasn't an obvious partisan-versus-Aquino partisan situation.

And second, by trying to get the JBC to amend the Section 3 rules. At first glance, it seemed that Senator Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was being kept out of the JBC by the JBC (until further notice because, also, the high court blasted in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the legislature), proposed a "rebuttal" of the Section 3 rules. Because of enforcement circumstances (e.g., the impeachment cases), this has not yet been resolved by the JBC.

How did Tupas come to refine the rules? By adding to the first two items on the list the phrase "if, in the determination of the Council, the charges are serious or grave as to affect the fitness of the applicant for nomination." In other words, the JBC would be given discretion to include for consideration candidates with pending criminal cases here or abroad, or with pending administrative cases here, as long as the JBC thinks the charges against them are not "serious or grave." Tupas also proposed to raise the disqualification bar for those convicted of administrative charges from a P10,000 penalty to a P50,000 penalty.

Is this a good idea? Not in my opinion. A second glance would show that Tupas' proposal was met with a storm of objections from, practically all the so-called judiciary stakeholders. In the "consultations" conducted by the JBC in September 2011 on the matter, there was only a single stakeholder (at least as far as the news reports were concerned) who declared support for the proposal. Retired Chief Justice Davide and Senate Pres. Enrile it down, former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (who was a member of the JBC in his time) also shot it down. A consensus of law deans and judges also is down. Various nongovernment organizations involved in law and justice shot it down. If anything, they wanted stricter rules.

What is even more noteworthy, Reader, is that Justice Secretary De Lima herself, sitting as ex officio member of the JBC, also shot it down. You can google the reports quoting from her three-page formal comment, as well as from interviews with her. "She says qual on charged ang kasa ko sa Ombudsman. Even if garapal, though, I realize that as a principle, you cannot require reform to become practically. The JBC is preempting the appropriate body on step-child or case."

Which puts her in a dilemma. The charges against her have not been dismissed. But the rules have been changed to allow the JBC latitude to be amended to accommodate her. Should she stick to principle and withdraw her candidacy, or should she cheer Malacañang on? Principle or position?

How bad was 'Ondoy'?

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Four of the six forms of resilience were more common among the families that had been victimized by the most intense Southwest Monsoon rains, flashfloods and batterless rains in 31 provinces among storm victims, compared to 35 percent among nonvictims. Food and drinking water were ranked by 61 percent of victims, versus 30 percent of nonvictims. House repairs had been done by 21 percent of victims, versus 13 percent of nonvictims. Materials to cope with floods were available to 14 percent of victims, versus only 6 percent of nonvictims.

On the other hand, access to safer electronic media was available to the same proportion of victims and nonvictims, i.e. 16 percent. Slightly more nonvictims (26 percent) than victims (24 percent) had a radio; the following day listening was more. Actually, people depend much more on television than on radio, as this indicates no special appreciation, among victims compared to nonvictims, of the value of a battery-powered radio in the case of loss of electricity.

Poverty and hunger were more common among storm victims. In December 2009, the national proportion of families eating chrysanthemum multongo or poor was 46 percent, amounting to 6.3 million families. Self-rated poverty was 30 percent among victims (3.3 million), compared to 44 percent among nonvictims (3.0 million).

It was 68 percent among Ondoy victims (1.4 million poor) and 54 percent among Pepeng victims (1.3 million poor). There still up to more than the number of poor storm victims became many in Bulacan Luzon were badly hit by both Ondoy and Pepeng.

At that time, 23.4 percent of families nationwide experienced involuntary hunger in the three months prior to the survey, this amounted to 4.3 million families. Among storm victims, hunger was 28.2 percent (or 3.0 million), whereas among nonvictims it was only 20.4 percent (or 2.3 million).

Hunger was 31.2 percent among Ondoy victims (1.3 million hungry), and 26.0 percent among Pepeng victims (0.7 million hungry), both above the national average.

The victims of the silver typhoons, though comparatively few in number, had exceptionally high rates of poverty and hunger when surveyed in December 2009. Self-rated poverty was 87 percent poor and 90 percent hungry; food victims were 73 percent poor and 75 percent hungry; Ondoy victims were 61 percent poor and 59 percent hungry; Pepeng victims were 91 percent poor and 96 percent hungry; Quedan victims were 60 percent poor and 55 percent hungry.

Optimism and pessimism. Every quarterly Social Weather Survey asks adults nationwide if they feel their personal quality of life (art ng pamumuhay) will improve, worsen, or be unchanged in the next 12 months. This item measures optimism, and those who expect to be better off feel hopeful about the future.

In December 2009, 33 percent of adults were optimistic, and 12 percent were pessimistic, for a net optimism score of +21, among adults from typhoon storm families, on the other hand, 33 percent were optimistic and 19 percent were pessimistic, for an above-average net optimism score of +13. (Fourth prize goes to the world's most befitting "+" sign "plus," as though their leaders don't have enough authority.)

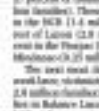
Among those victimized by Ondoy in particular, the net optimism was only 8 percent were pessimistic, for an even better net optimism score of +25.

Conclusion: We Filipinos don't let flood-wrecked get us down.

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar@sws.org.ph; publications.org.ph. I thank Edwin "Chet" Antonio Isang d'Ali for doing some calculations and data.

Libraries are not made, they grow



THAT QUOTE from Augustine Birrell (1850-1933) given you at the "From Books to Bytes" exhibit documenting the 200-year history of the Singapore National Library Board (NLB). Beginning with a modest single cupboard of books in the 1820s on Stamford Street, it is now a sleek and modern 11-floor structure on Victoria Street, right in the vicinity of its iconic Raffles Hotel, the Sea Bands shopping complex that is a favored haunt of bargain hunters especially for used books, and several 5-star hotels. So guests, whether business or pleasure, is needed to stand still at the floors, and one enjoys a leisurely visit at one's own pace — a unique highlight of a recent visit to the island republic. Only the four way to appreciate its features.

I could not help recalling that as a reading conference in Bangkok in 2011 organized by the National Knowledge Park, owner of six regional libraries of Indonesia. Even the "Seven Behind the Giants of Singapore" and how today's names are clues to the country's original inhabitants. Manila would certainly be a rich source for something similar. The exhibit on the top floor was poignant as it documented the fall of Singapore and displayed wartime posters and copies of British soldiers. It was inspired by the famous "In Flanders fields where poppies grow ..." war poem, and an artist had a large installation of red poppies. (This was a poem that rang familiar because it was one that our high school literature teacher, Ms Mary Hyacinth Drilon, had an encounter which we did with little knowledge of its context in Inspirasi history.)

There was yet another exhibit, a permanent one that the society guard encouraged me to view as it was the collection of state gifts presents given to the head of state of Singapore.

But the library's crowning glory is the floor — mine, rather — devoted to let the Garden Level on the fifth floor. A large room with glass walls overlooking the city state's towering buildings and natural light served as a general study room for students who needed the space and the quiet. The room was full of readers, including students who were doing school readings or writing on their laptops, and many of them seemed settled in their seats for a long period. The amazing thing was that, in full quiet and respect for one another's privacy, I could have spent my whole day in and "plucked" solitude there.

The Singapore NLB proved that books alone do not a library make, but also interested, devoted and impassioned readers. It has gone beyond being the country's primary building on a mere showcase. No wonder Lee Kin talked about her reading programs geared for tots/drivers and another one for literary talent workers, and the NLB's continuing attempt to reach out to readers in their own homes and work places. Thus, two days (perhaps the state's head area) runs many library branches are in operation, even at the Esplanade, the Harbourfront Shopping Center, the Bishan Hawker Community Building. To ensure total convenience, one simply returns the borrowed materials in the Library drop-box closest to one.

It's a significant reminder for us who are heard of adequate public libraries, but know only too well that rather than merely lament our state of deprivation, we have to explore other ways. There is no time to waste as far as the reading habits is concerned for both young and old. A memorable quote in the library premises comes from Reginald Haselton, Hedwig Anuar: "Reading something is better than reading nothing."

Nemi Sta. Romana Cruz (nemicruz@gmail.com) is chair of the National Book Development Board, a trustee of the Ani Akbar Arshan Foundation, and a member of the Egypt-Japan Foundation.

COMMENTARY

Nemi Sta. Romana Cruz

In defense of Charter change

BUSINESS MATTERS

Bernardo M. Villegas

I AM going my full support to the move in both chambers of Congress to amend the economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution that unreasonably restrict foreign equity investments in large scale, capital intensive industries in the Philippines, especially to be required are public utilities, natural resources, infrastructure and real estate. If changing circumstances should warrant limiting foreign investments in these sectors, it should be done by legislation. Having the restrictions enshrined in the Constitution can handicap the Philippines in competing for foreign direct investments (FDI) in these areas regions, now considered the global economic engine.

One does not have to be a super optimist to predict that the last three years of President Aquino's term will see an average annual growth of at least 7 percent, serving as a foundation of good prospects for more subsequent years. That is the good news. The bad news is that maintaining the growth at that pace for another 4 to 12 years so that we can finally reduce poverty incidence to less than 10 percent (from the present 26 percent) will not be possible with internal savings alone.

Take the case of China. It already has the highest savings rate in Asia of 50 percent of GDP. Despite abundant domestic savings, China still had to attract close to $100 billion of FDI annually to power its average growth of 10 to 12 percent for more than 30 years. Even then, China could not boast some 400 million Chinese from debasement-living poverty. Vietnam is another case. It has succeeded in attracting $7 to $10 billion of FDI annually over the last five to seven years. And Indonesia's average annual FDI has exceeded $10 billion.

Even with some corrections for accounting errors, Philippine FDI has not exceeded $2 billion annually. There is no way we can maintain a 7 percent GDP growth for the next 20 years, much less a 10 percent growth that can speed up the reduction of poverty, without our attracting at least a $10 billion FDI level annually.

That is where Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile are absolutely right. We still never attract those much larger amounts of FDI unless we remove from our Constitution the many restrictions against foreign equity investments in each vital sectors of our economy in the areas of education, public utilities, mining, and real estate. Removing the unrealistic moral constraints will give way to more outright and legislation that can still protect the common good against the wrong kind of foreign investments.

For example, removing the absolute prohibition against the foreign ownership of land will enable Congress to legislate that only land on which a foreigner builds his home or his business can be owned by foreigners. This will be the answer to the absolute concern of some militant nationalists that "the Chinese will buy the whole Philippines."

In fact, the recent executive order on cropland, likewise is another example of enlightened policymaking. It subsidizes Congress to legislate on the conditions for the grant of new mining contracts. What the two bodies in Congress need is to remove from the Constitution what is properly a legislative task. If there are to be some limits to some forms of foreign direct investments, let them be through legislation (which can be changed when circumstances evolve), rather than through the Constitution.

I never agreed with my fellow drafters of the Constitution in 1986 to transform the Charter in to one long-winded and verbose piece of legislation. In fact, I tried to remind them (to no avail) that the United Kingdom does not even have a written constitution but has had a long history of unwritten constitutional legislation.

What really gets my goat is hearing some of our leaders saying that even without changing the Constitution, foreigners will find many "loopholes" ways of getting around the restrictions (including marrying Filipinos!). What they fail to realize is that these "creative" ways are precisely the reasons why the Philippines is absent at the bottom in the ranking of "Ease of Doing Business." We are constantly pilloried by foreigners for corruption, red tape and bureaucracy, and inefficient infrastructure. (In these two areas, power, water, ports, airports, electric utilities, and telecommunications facilities if we remove the 40 percent limit to foreign equity.

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. He's e-mail address is bernardo.villegas@uap.asia.

Bro

I WAS seven when I first caught a glimpse of my baby brother. He was a cute and cuddly creature swaddled in a diaper. However, because of an ill-timed case of conjunctivitis, it was only after a few days that I had the chance to hold him. Being the only child for seven years, I was very happy that at last Mama and Papa had finally given me a playmate.

Unlike many years later, my brother has grown into a handsome lad. He is even taller than me. He likes watching TV and laughs at the commercials with manic antics. He dislikes getting dirty, and often changes clothes many times in a day. He hobbies include scanning pages of glossy magazines, flipping them into two pieces, and scattering the colorful confetti in our living room and kitchen. He watches hand-like over his small collection of odds and ends, and throws a tantrum whenever someone touches anything. As on his toddler years, he stays up late at night, and sometimes, when bad dreams visit him, he runs for home.

As an age when many teens are experiencing the first stages of maturity, my brother is still at a loss on how to process his dreams, thoughts, and emotions. He is engaged, not in adolescent rebellion, but in the actions of a child who is lost and confused, who is a stranger not only to his family but to himself as well.

Autism is the thief that stole my brother away. It came unexpectedly, and it took me and my parents a while to understand its implications. At first it seemed to be like medical miracles: harder, especially when are matched him behaving exactly like other toddlers his age. He crawled, walked, chirped, made "beautiful eyes," making us hope that the doctors had misdiagnosed his condition.

Then the signs for us — the uncomprehending stare, the repetitive actions, the lack of verbal skills. I knew it must have been pretty hard on my parents when they realized that whatever my brother said "Mama" and "Papa," it was possible for her to only repeated those words from memory, and not because he associated them with people who love him deeply.

We are not wealthy but we managed to scrape up enough money to enroll my brother in a special school. But because my father had to go to work and I to my classes, it was only my mother who took him to his sessions. It was not easy because neither he finish the school and my brother can get very unruly. He survived for a while on this routine, but eventually, it proved too difficult for my mother to discipline my brother in public. And the long trips took a toll on her frail health. On top of everything else, everyone's parental schedule and college schedules was drastically cut because of finances. In my brother had to stop going to that special school.

Fortunately, there are special public schools closer to our home, and my brother went to some of them. There are also people who are always willing to help children like him, and my brother's progress was made possible by these persons who went out of their way to visit our house and teach my brother, and to other parents and concerned people who did up helpful online resources on autism.

Still, I know that what my family did and is doing for my only sibling are simply not enough. And it saddens me to no end that I am not able to contribute more. I am only 13 years; I can barely count the income I spend quality time with him. There were even instances when are both ended up crying because he bit or pinched me, and I shouted at him in frustration. I have grown more mature over the years, but sometimes I find it easier to retreat to my room whenever he throws his tantrums.

But more than the wounds and the scars, what really makes my mind a race are those times I see other girls with their brothers. Seven did I experience sibling rivalry because in my case, even though my parents continue to pour a lot of attention on my brother, it would be quite foolish and selfish of me to feed any sort of envy or resentment toward him. But one lunch, only 4 years old, I was shocked at him in retaliation. I have grown more mature over the years, but sometimes I find it easier to retreat to my room whenever he throws his tantrums.

Six

LETTERS

Ecology and economics: way to peace for China, PH

MANY PEOPLE dismiss Chinese investment in the West Philippine Sea as merely sabre rattling. The accompanying rhetoric empowers China's aggressive stance, emphasizing its Asian dominance and wooing other challengers to foster the view no China's Backyard return. Diplomatic downplay the Spratlys squabble, hoping that silence will persuade China to ease down its claims.

The value of all this isn't just the oil itself.

Consider another scenario. China's northern regions are running into drastic, chronic water shortages, damaged by the rapid agro-industrial development of the recent past and exacerbated by environmental degradation, and a slowing economic push on the land for new lands that will be able to produce food for an increasing population. After enacting land and resource deals with African nations, China is now looking at island chains in Asia.

The Philippines has the land and water that can help fill that void—and it isn't that far from the "manageable province" Taiwan and other islands along the fabled China Sea that China claims.

Preventing invasions and combating incursions could lead to a process for more advanced military defense that could be on the drawing board against the Chinese forces. As such, the United States and its allies, notably the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan, may need to step in to maintain Asian equilibrium. And while all this is happening, we citizens will bear, making it more for anyone to make a industry that could trigger conflagration, as if the Middle East and African crises aren't anxious enough for the entire planet.

The Philippines would do well to draw up joint programs with China to convert food supplies for China in exchange for concessional concessions, investments, commitments and market deals, open Chinese markets to Philippine products, and be the first to push that instead benefit and mutual interests can be discovered and installed.

Ecology and economics could provide the beginning for countries to step away from a confrontational path. Peace in our region can be started by the private sector—as politics unfortunately limits the flexibilities of Chinese and Philippine leaders. The moment this process begins, the rise in all of us can be progressively at night.

—JOSE GUAZ,
jhcastro@gmail.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGIONAL OFFICE VII
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE CY 2012 SEFF

1. The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through the CY 2012 SEFF School Furniture Program intends to apply the sum of PHFF 387,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery (Short-Archive) of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Bids received in excess of the ABC per lot shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The DepED Division of Cebu Province now invites bids for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Delivery within Manila is required by the Month/Twenty (120) Calendar Days per lot. Bidders should have completed, within Five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Lot Number	Installation (pc)		Teacher's Table & Chair (set)	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration
	Chairs	Desk			
1 (Cluster 1)	1,000	1,000	50	PHP 1,000,000.00	90 C.D.
2 (Cluster 2)	1,000	1,000	50	PHP 1,000,000.00	90 C.D.
3 (Cluster 3)	1,000	1,000	50	PHP 1,000,000.00	90 C.D.
TOTAL	3,000	3,000	150	PHP 3,000,000.00	

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country that the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00am-5:00pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on August 13, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of PHP1,000.00 per lot.
6. The DepED Division of Cebu Province will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 22, 2012, 9:00am, at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before September 3, 2012, 9:00am. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on September 3, 2012, 9:00am at DepED Division of Cebu Province, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The DepED Division of Cebu Province reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

MARICEL GRACE D. MALAGAR
BAC Secretariat
DepED Division of Cebu Province
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel # 230-4564

Sgd.) **ADELINA M. CARREDO**
BAC Chairperson
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGIONAL OFFICE VII
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE CY 2011 Batch 2

1. The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province, through the CY 2012 Batch 2 School Furniture Program intends to apply the sum of PHP 1,624,700.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery (Over-the-door) of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Bids received in excess of the ABC per lot shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The DepED Division of Cebu Province now invites bids for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to various schools in the Division of Cebu Province. Delivery of the Goods is required Ninety (90) Calendar Days per lot. Bidders should have completed, within Five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Lot Number	Armchairs (pc)		Teacher's Table & Chair (set)	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration
	Chairs	Desk			
1 (Lot 1)	540	540	20	PHP 1,080,700.00	90 C.D.
2 (Lot 2)	300	674	23	PHP 813,000.00	90 C.D.
3 (Lot 3)	465	93	10	PHP 372,000.00	90 C.D.
4 (Lot 4)	375	375	10	PHP 647,000.00	90 C.D.
5 (Lot 5)	420	420	20	PHP 756,000.00	90 C.D.
TOTAL	2,100	2,102	101	PHP 1,624,700.00	

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country that the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
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MARICEL GRACE D. MALAGAR
BAC Secretariat
DepED Division of Cebu Province
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel # 230-4564

Sgd.) **ADELINA M. CARREDO**
BAC Chairperson
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

SOLID COMPANY WITH DIVERSIFIED INTEREST IS URGENTLY IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Licensed
- Has proficiency in depth planning & minimum 5 years experience in commercial & industrial construction
- Has superintendent working habit

SANITARY ENGINEER
- Must be a licensed Engineer
- Has at least 5 to 6 years experience as a sanitary engineer
- Commercial & industrial construction
- Has fire capacity, in handling at least 20 workers

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 25-35 yrs old / Flexible
- At least 3-5 yrs experience working on a specific
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Can operate and efficient different business correspondence
- Adept in legal correspondence

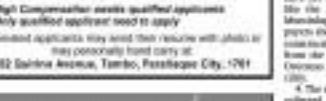
PLUMBER
- Must possess at least a vocational/technical/short course certificate that is 2-4 yrs plumbing related experience in a big industrial and construction company
- With good communication skills

DRIVER
- Male, with 5-6 years experience driving different kinds of vehicle
- At least high school graduate
- Knowledgeable in manual and automatic vehicles
- Has a valid driver's license with police and NBI clearances

** (Hgh) Compensation awaits qualified applicants
** Only qualified applicant need to apply

Interested applicants may send their resume with photo to may personally hand carry at:

802 Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Paranaque City, 1701



INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Philippine Commercial Capital, Inc. (PCCI) is implementing the Alliance for Mindanao and Inter-Regional Economic Growth Through Development of Agri-Clusters & Programs of Action (AMIGO) Project with the financial support from the Philippine Department of Energy and Australian Government. Interested and internationally recognized qualified organizations to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the following: Project Coordinator, Project Consultant, Project Engineer, Project Accountant and Driver. EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Project Coordinator at the address indicated below not later than the date/time specified. Qualified organizations will be invited to submit proposals and will be informed of the status of their EOI. Incomplete EOI will not be considered.

Project Coordinator	Supply, facilitate, and coordination of Grant Activities, including working for Grant Administration and Control of Expenditures
Project Consultant	In charge of Technical Assistance, Capacity Development of Mindanao Inter-Island Electricity Integration Project, Member of Technical Working Group
Engineer	Senior Electrical Engineer, Licensed Electrical Engineer with Professional Licensure Exam
Driver	Male, with 5-6 years experience driving different kinds of vehicle

Interested qualified parties may download Expression of Interest as attached.

Ms. Lourdes P. Ramos
Project Coordinator
Email address: lourdes@philcommercialcapital.com

EOI Documents shall be made available only to qualified parties that have submitted the CVs and complete information as required above. Deadline for submission of EOI documents is 31 August 2012, 5:00 PM.

Interested and participating firms shall be invited to Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening.

Sgd.) Laurie M. Ramirez
Chairman

LBP Resources and Development Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Lot No.	Area Size	Terms
1	Barangay Bagacay, Municipality of Dauin, Province of Negros Oriental with an area of 1,000,000 sq. m. more or less	Cash
2	Barangay Bagacay, Municipality of Dauin, Province of Negros Oriental with an area of 1,000,000 sq. m. more or less	Cash
3	Barangay Bagacay, Municipality of Dauin, Province of Negros Oriental with an area of 1,000,000 sq. m. more or less	Cash
4	Barangay Bagacay, Municipality of Dauin, Province of Negros Oriental with an area of 1,000,000 sq. m. more or less	Cash

Maynilad's questionable advance collections

TO AVOID the aerial exchange of replies and counter-replies, Maynilad should just open its books for audit and be scrupulous in announcement organizations would assist it in account for the following statements and suppositions clearly.

1. The total advance collections in Maynilad's hands for the unfinished projects, namely, Labac Dam and the Angat Dam irrigation Replacement Project. For compliance public rates provided by the MWSS Regulatory Office, the advance collections for these two items alone have reached about P6 billion.

2. The total advance collections—from 2005 up to the present—for sewerage, sanitation fees and the 10 percent environmental fees. To this date, has a single meter of tightly sealed sewerage pipe been installed by Maynilad; and since 2005 up to the present, no provision for sewerage and sanitation is in place, resulting in health problems like gastroenteric, dengue, typhoid fever, which have become very common in Metro Manila.

3. The total sums of water infrastructure projects awarded by Maynilad to its affiliated companies as very, very high costs—like the recently awarded sewerage and sewerage plants in Quezon City where sewerage pipelines yet to be interconnected therewith, or like the Putatan Water Pumping Plant in Muntinlupa where water treatments and capacity exceeded the water prohibitive costs of treatment and the payments of huge loans from the Asian Development Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corp. for this facility.

4. The total amount of income tax payments collected by Maynilad from consumers through their monthly water bills, even as Maynilad enjoys a tax-free income tax holiday granted by the Board of Investments.

—ARSENIO CH. ANTOLIANO III,
president,
Point for All School Movement,
saveearth_2012@yahoo.com

Make fee minimal

I READ in comments on the issue of Commission Feng of the Philippine Sin Cross Decrees, 7/20/12) about the "administrative fee" to recover some costs in the handling of donated blood for transfusions.

My suggestion is that if such a fee were needed to recover any costs, it should be minimal and not regressive, i.e., like a flat tax that hits the same those who can least afford. And P1,000 per bag is too, in my humble opinion, excessive, P300 might do.

My suggestion is that when families are going through so much stress and anguish over a loved one's urgent need for blood, there is the double imposition of, firstly, shaking up donor cards, then secondly, coming up with other monies. I think that the fee should be waived altogether in the patients' favor. Why not simplify the procedure and review it all in order to address the urgency of the situation, and only remind us after the transfusion—but before, in order to avoid any appearance of commission money-grubbing? Why not have hospital staff review and absorb this cost, then ask for voluntary contribution based on review?

Also, on the issue of victims of crime and accidents, of whom there are many thousands in the Philippines, are they being quickly and competently assessed as well, or victims and their own?

Pang mentions, "other blood bank operators." I had no idea that the Red Cross had competitors here. In Australia, people wanting to donate blood have only one choice: the Red Cross. Blood supplies placed of an operation can make "emergency" donations with private firms—at a cost.

I share Pang's concern about the need to educate the public to respond more generously to the call for blood. I appeal to donors in seven cases, but the best way of lodging is in drop-in at one Red Crosscenter and volunteer a donation. The Red Cross, along with organizations such as Medecins sans Frontiers, is renowned for its selfless dedication and altruistic motivations, and are the best way of supporting such groups, besides those fully involved in blood. It brings great joy. Please consider, and act.

—ROLLER D'SOUZA,
baqbo9999@gmail.com

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

MSU back to 'normal' but soldiers stay

OZAMIZ CITY—Classes have returned to normal at Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City yesterday, a day after it was shut down following a military operation in the wake of an ambush that killed three soldiers on Wednesday.

The disruption of classes and session on Thursday "is behind us now," MSU president Dr. Macapado Muslim told the inquirer by phone. He said the sentiment in campus is calm now only on social media and did not reflect the actual situation at the government-run university.

Muslim said the impression that the situation in the university had worsened was brought about by the hearsay of students' reaction circulating mostly through text messages and picked up by social media users.

One text message, which was also forwarded to the inquirer, urged students and faculty members to vacate the campus by Friday as the Army was supposed to launch a massive manhunt against the perpetrators of the ambush.

The announcement supposedly came from a certain Colonel Dela Peña who was introduced as "spokesman of Camps Ahmad," the headquarters of the Army's 103rd Brigade. "When I checked with Col. Daniel Lucero Delgado (commander), there is no Colonel Dela Peña in Camps Ahmad," Muslim said.

Another text message had a certain Prof. Hamza Macapado saying the campus is closed for one week for the "security and safety of the administrative staff, faculties and students" as "the MSU Seneca is under investigation."

THE BULLET-RIDDLED vehicle that was ambushed Wednesday evening along King Faisal Road inside the Mindanao State University campus. Three soldiers were killed while nine others were wounded while those the two civilians on board a private vehicle behind the military vehicle. EDGAR G. ADA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

In contrast the developing misconception, Muslim went around the dormitories, where many students say "we bring the true information to you door," about the real security situation in the 400-hectare university campus.

But Muslim admitted that traffic adjustments had to be made in one lane of the university's main road, where the ambush took place, remained closed. He said this was to give way to the police's Scene of the Crime Operatives to gather evidence.

'Militarization'

Army soldiers were also visible inside the campus. Muslim defended the continued presence of Army troops, adding that Army were there to beef up the school's security capabilities.

Muslim said that aside from keeping safer inside the campus of close to 20,000 people, including students, faculty and staff members, security forces also sends over the premises of non-university people, who were given permits by previous MSU presidents to set up residence inside the campus that spans five villages.

They include many Lanao chief bar politicians.

Several groups like Suhaiso and the Mindanao Peoples Peace Movement have opposed what they described as the "militarization of the university" and called for "civilian takeover" of the security operation.

But Magdi Finoman, acting governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, alleged the activists' fears saying "greater law enforcement presence will respect human rights and civil liberties."

Hataman said questions about the presence of security forces inside the campus could be settled with a clear appreciation of what security issues confront the university.

"That is why I am supporting a thorough and wider investigation to determine the broader context of incidents including the ambush," Hataman told the inquirer by phone.

Sources told the inquirer that avenging the death last month of a certain Lanao bus just one likely motive for Wednesday's attack, an idea that Lanao has supported.

Another motive could be to avenge the "unfavorable outcome of the general registration" on the eleven of some local politicians.

Lanao's had said the army had been unwarranted in blocking the entry of the cops of would-be Pagalungawan into Marawi City and Lanao del Sur during the 30-day general list up to July. *Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

Gov't troops, cops retake highway

DATU SALIBO ABROTIAN, Maguindanao—Police and military authorities yesterday completely retook the Maguindanao-General Santos City Highway from the hands of Moro gunmen identified with Ameril Umbra Kato.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said the reopening of the highway means that rebel operations could go full swing to assist some 65,000 individuals who fled the violence that started Tuesday.

Around 11:30 a.m. yesterday, Lt. Magnaviga dela Cruz, commander of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade, and Senior Supt. Marcelo Pleyto, Maguindanao police chief, led soldiers and police men in removing the barriers of the highway checkpoints in Barangay Simsiman, Datu Piang, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, all in Datu Unsay town, in symbolic the road's full opening to traffic.

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) forces had established the ground on the said portions of the said highway until Thursday before they withdrew.

"We have enough forces serving as road security," Dela Cruz said when asked about the safety of vehicles passing by the Maguindanao-General Santos City Highway.

But he said the military would only allow the use of the highway during daytime.

"As part of precautionary measures, the highway will be closed to traffic from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.," he said.

Dela Cruz said the military's retaking of the highway came after a force the fight that left 20 BIFF forces dead on Wednesday and Thursday.

"We hand the casualty figure of BIFF or body counts by our troops and civilians in areas where they were buried by their comrades," he said.

Dela Cruz said soldiers also managed to free several hostages in Datu Saudi-Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang and Guindulungan, but the military was still securing the situation there.

"We cannot decide yet if it is already safe for the evacuees to return to their cleared areas," he said.

Dela Cruz said soldiers were pursuing the fleeing BIFF forces toward the Liguasan Marsh.

In North Cotabato, the military also announced that the portion of the Davao-Cotabato Highway between Midsayap and Pikit town was sealed off to avoid civilians from being victimized by BIFF forces.

Col. Rey Ceballe, chief of the Army's 602th Infantry Battalion, said soldiers remained on alert for possible spillovers of the Maguindanao clashes to North Cotabato town that share borders with the said province. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

RESIDENTS displaced by hostilities rest inside the evacuation center in the Invincible Mary rebels' attack on government forces continue in Datu Saudi-Ampatuan town, Maguindanao. EDWARD DANGCIL/INQUIRER MINDANAO

MILF: 2 Maguindanao pols support Kato

COTABATO CITY—A senior Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) official yesterday said two prominent Maguindanao politicians were supporting the group of Ameril Umra Kato.

The military has received the same information but has regarded this as raw and unverified.

The MILF official, who requested anonymity due to lack of authority to speak on the matters, identified the politicians, one of them was Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu.

The inquirer is withholding the name of the other Maguindanao politician in efforts to reach him but not succeeded.

Mangudadatu denied the allegations and said he must leave Davao immediately when he called for a dialogue with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM), the group that Kato heads.

He said the dialogue could pave the way for the end of violence, which took place as the Muslim would celebrate its holy month of Ramadan.

The MILF official said Mangudadatu and the other politician turned financing Kato's army the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), after the death of his wife and 37 other persons in the infamous Maguindanao massacre in 2009.

"I hope our authorities will investigate the sources so they can prevent the same from happening," the MILF official said.

Mangudadatu said his aides warned against relaying false information after he suggested that Kato should be involved in the peace process.

He said the former MILF leader, who broke away from the rebel group due to serious disagreements over the conduct of the peace process, recommended a following next violence could not possibly be continued unless he became part of the peace process.

Mangudadatu said he wondered what's wrong with the suggestion. "Even this mean I'm a Kato collaborator, that I'm a Kato protector?" he asked.

Maj. Gen. Rey Ardo, commander of the military's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said they had received the same information about the supposed ties that Mangudadatu and the other politician have with Kato.

"We have new information undergoing validation, but at this point the inquirer appears baseless and politically motivated," he said.

Mangudadatu had said he would seek redress in the Maguindanao provincial capitol next year but a relative, former Sultan Kudarat Rep. Pax Mangudadatu was eyeing the MMRI leadership.

Ardo said he would not comment any further to avoid the military to be dragged into the issue.

"The military as law enforcers and peacekeepers is competent. Our concentration is to restore normalcy at the highway and to maintain the deliberate," he said.

As of yesterday, fighting was continuing between soldiers and BIFF forces in the towns of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang and Guindulungan.

The violence has forced more than 23,000 people out of their homes.

Four civilians were also killed since the fighting broke out on Sunday.

The latest civilian casualty was an evacuee, who was hit by a sniper fire inside an evacuation center in Shariff Aguak town on Thursday. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Rivers cleaned up while dam repairs continue, says Philex

BAGUIO CITY—Philex Mining Corp. has deployed a cleanup crew to Benguet tributaries to remove chemicals and sediments discharged from its tailings dam at its Padcal mine in Itogon, Benguet, on Aug. 1, a company official said on Friday.

A government team led by Environment Secretary Ramon Paje to oversee the repairs of the tailings dam joined the crew as the waterways that flow toward the Agno and Balog river channels, lawyer Eduardo Ataiza, Philex legal officer, said.

In an Aug. 10 statement, Philex said the tailings were isolated to prevent silt from reaching the ocean-grave area going to the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

The firm's Tailings Dam No. 3 in Itogon accidentally discharged excessive water and sediments that were trapped "in less than 48 hours," after its discovery on Aug. 1, Philex said in a statement.

A tailings dam is the repository of all chemicals and sediments disposed in the course of mine operations.

Philex suspended its operations and asked its workers to volunteer for rehabilitation work instead. Stopping operations would cost the company P320 million in monthly losses, the firm said.

In the City of San Fernando on Friday, Manuel Pangilinan, Philex chair, acknowledged the mine's woes. Pangilinan had rescued its Pampanga, his home province, in distribute relief goods.

In his talks with San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, he said "the tailings are like sand."

Libby Mendoza, Philex vice president for operations and Padcal mine resident manager, said on Friday that the firm's environmental office had sent out three river samples on Monday to survey the Benguet waters.

"The task force will wash, inspound, collect and haul sediments along the riverbanks or riverbed in to a triangle site on barkill materials. The process may be done through mechanical engineering, depending on the assessment of the experts," he said in a statement.

"The operations in Padcal mine have been reorganized to focus on immediate remediation and rehabilitation of its tailings storage facility and the impact of water and sediments leak on the environment," he said.

"The [physical cleanup of the silt formed river] is part of a long-term plan to rehabilitate and restore the tributaries, and develop them as a potential seaport and tourist area in the future."

On Thursday, Philex said it had engaged "domestic and foreign consultants to develop a rehabilitation plan to restore the safety and integrity of the tailings pond facility and an environmental program that will address any environmental impact which may have been brought about by the incident."

It said the challenges were centered in "one of the two underground conveyor/silt drain tunnel from the penstock in the tailings pond." Vincent Cabreza, inquirer *Northern Luzon, and Romelyn Ocampo, Inquirer Central Luzon*

THEY in Philex Mining Corp.'s Tailings Pond No. 3 in Itogon town of Benguet, photo taken on December 1, 2011. Last week, rainwater may have leaked out of this waste facility, leading the company to shut down operations. PHILEX MINING CORP. PHOTO

PhilHealth Advisory

PhilHealth

No. 08-02-2012

PhilHealth Extends Payment Deadline for Formal Sector Members

In view of the current circumstances in the National Capital Region (NCR), Region III and Region IV-A, the deadline of payment of premium contribution for the formal sector members in the said areas for the month of July is extended until August 17, 2012.

PhilHealth Offices including Local Health Insurance Offices and Accredited Collecting Agents shall accept premium payments for the said extended period.

DR. EDUARDO P. BANZON
President and CEO

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail us at ... Website: ...

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Connie B. Fernandez

Death shocks running community

By Hobin P. Kuala
Lapu-Lapu City

HUMILITY Ignita was waiting for her husband at the transition area in Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa in Cebu's Lapu-Lapu City to continue with the run segment of the relay in the Cobra Ironman 70.3 Philippines on Sunday.

The clock struck 11:55 a.m., signaling the runoff time for the bikers. But Ramon Ignita Jr. was nowhere to be found.

Humility started to worry when race vehicles brought a rideless bike bearing TTR-Ironman's race number 8, 2101. It was Ramon's.

Ramon, 44, a load controller of Cebu Pacific, died after falling off his bike and hitting his head on the gutter near the turnaround point along South Coastal Road in Talisay City.

An autopsy report later showed that his death was not due to a bumpy road patch, gutsy wind or microbial infection sweeping of the bike. He suffered from "severe pulmonary embolism" that caused him to fall off his bike.

The autopsy, performed by Dr. Rachelina Saavedra Perez and Dr. Theodore Zamora on the request of the family, revealed the presence of several blood clots in Ramon's lungs.

RAMON Ignita Jr. rode on his bike along Pusdat Street in Mandaue City. He later collapsed near the turnaround point at South Coastal Road in Talisay City.

Pulmonary embolism

Fever and clumb from acute pulmonary embolism could be swift and without warning. But cases of pulmonary embolism are rare among athletes.

According to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute website (http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov), pulmonary embolism is the sudden blockage in a lung artery usually caused by a blood clot that "travels to the lung from the veins."

Pulmonary embolism could damage part of the lung due to lack of blood flow to the lung tissue that may lead to pulmonary hypertension, it said. It can also cause low oxygen levels flowing to the blood that can damage the organs.

"If a blood clot is large, or if there are many clots, PE (pulmonary embolism) can cause death," the website said.

Ramon's death shocked the running community in Cebu.

He and Humility are also members of gymnovelgirl, belonged to a running club called "Urge," whose members would run after lunchtime when they were done with work.

The couple was well loved as they were known to organize endurance support and sportsmen during ultramarathons. Recently, they helped put up 100-kilometer ultramarathons from seventh to nineteen who couldn't afford the more expensive ultra races in other parts of the country.

Ramon had always loved to bike. "Biking was really his passion even before we got married. That's what he really enjoyed doing," Humility said.

When Cobra Ironman 70.3 Philippines was to be held in Cebu, the couple and family friend, Dr. Benjamin Balanon Jr., formed a team to compete in the mixed relay.

It was no surprise then that Ramon would take on the 90-km bike race while Benjamin would compete in the 1.9-km open water swim and Humility the 21-km run. They named themselves from Tyri Bugtu or TYR-Ironman.

Just minutes before the start of the race at Shangri-La on Aug. 5, Ramon and Humility were seen having fun and excited over their first Ironman race.

Then the bell rang for the swim leg signaled the start of the race. Balanon finished the swim leg in 37 minutes and 18 seconds.

Ramon rode on his bike, ready to conquer the route covering the cities of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Cebu and Talisay. He was supposed to make his first turnaround at South Coastal Road in Talisay to head back to Cebu City where witnesses saw his bike wobbling.

Then he collapsed, hitting his head on the gutter.

Rescue personnel brought him to Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City, but physicians declared him dead on arrival around 9:40 a.m.

Humility, who was at the bike transition area in Shangri-La, started looking for Ramon when he didn't arrive by the end of the bike runoff time.

When she saw Ramon's bike on board a race vehicle, she and Balanon started calling emergency rooms of different hospitals since race marshals didn't have any information then on what happened to him.

"When we called Chong Hua and asked if there was an Ironman participant brought to the ER (emergency room), they said there was someone but they could not identify him. So I described our team t-shirt and the body-marking indicating TTR-Ironman's race number. They said someone matched the description and that he had expired two hours before," Balanon said.

Humility rushed to the hospital in an ambulance because seats were still closed for the race.

"When I arrived at the hospital, I saw his body. Rumors was still warm. He was smiling. There was no sign of struggle. He looked very happy," Humility said, even audio caution dyAR.

She said her grief was somewhat eased knowing that her husband died doing something he loved.

"Until now, I haven't been able to cry. I have to be strong for our only daughter, Nika, because mine is a borrowed life," said Humility, a career nurse.

Lessons

Jolted by Ramon's death, aspiring triathletes now realize that they should be more mindful of their health condition.

"There's a lesson to be learned here," said Tom Gaite, president of Cebu Ultrarunners Club.

"We should all be aware and listen to our bodies all the time while doing endurance sports, especially biking and running."

Annie Siete, a three-time Ironman 70.3 Finisher, fitness instructor and gym manager, said aspiring triathletes should consider these things before embarking on the endurance sports.

One is to consider their current fitness level and their willingness to commit to a training plan. Most important is that athletes should listen to listen to their bodies.

Achilette, who registers in endurance sports competitions like the Ironman 70.3, says a warrior standard to meet if not all endurance sports.

The waiver states that the participant acknowledges that the activity, including running, bicycling and swimming, is inherently dangerous and an extensive set of physical and mental limits.

It also stipulates that an athlete knows the risks involved in participating in such an event. These include possible serious body injury, permanent disability, paralysis and death.

The participant also owns up that no specialty is to be physically fit and appropriately trained for the race.

No shortcuts

Cebuano Ironman surgeon Peter Hinchcliffe advised athletes not to take shortcuts if they wished to engage in races of extreme sports.

"The bottom line is that we're trying to promote a healthy lifestyle," he said.

"Devote time for preparation, proper training and give your body time to adjust. A complete physical examination should reveal any preexisting conditions that might cause harm or even death while pursuing a sport. And for new entrants to the sport, it might be wise to taper down competitiveness and enjoy the sports."

On Monday, Wendel Lopez, Cebuano triathlete and Filipino elite (tied) placer in the Ironman 70.3, offered his trophy to honor Ramon's love for the sport.

"To the Ignita family, our deepest condolences. Although we are sorry for your loss, [we] hope this will motivate others the spirit of triathlon in Cebu. Mr. Ramie Ignita will forever be remembered and respected by the triathlon community," Lopez's wife, Lorbie, posted in her Facebook page.

On Wednesday, Ramon's Cebuanos, who designed this year's Ironman 70.3 Philippines shirt's motifs, gave a commemorative medals to TTR-Ironman.

Australian Tim Jacobs, the overall winner, gave his cream, bib, visor and Finisher's shirt—all signed—to Humility.

Ramon will be laid to rest today. On that night, at least 150 runners will hold a tribute run—a fitting farewell to a beloved friend.

Construction boom alters Tacloban skyline

By Joey Gabieta
Tacloban City, Leyte

THE FAMILY of Ato Wuray Rep. Ned Benedict Momaya is building a five-story hotel on Imelda Street in Tacloban City, Leyte. JOEY GABIETA

TACLOBAN City's skyline is changing. At least 156 commercial buildings, including a shopping mall, restaurant and hotels, have sprouted in the capital over the past three years, more than double the number in 2008.

The construction boom is an indication that Tacloban, a gateway to Leyte province, is no longer a sleepy city known only as the hometown of former First Lady and now Leyte Rep. Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Tacloban's growth and booming economy have been propelled by tourism and retail industries.

"People are discovering Tacloban. If Robinson's is there, there must be something," said Cynthia Trivero, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry. Robinson's Place opened a branch in the city in 2011.

The shopping mall serves as a magnet for other businesses, which want recognize Tacloban's attractive market with its increasing population and spending power, Trivero said.

Robinson's Land Corp. also built Go Hotels in Tacloban, a 99-room hotel just beside the mall.

Hotel projects

According to Trivero, Tacloban and the rest of Leyte have been enjoying increased tourist arrivals, and local hotels have difficulty accommodating booking requests.

Trivero said at least four investors had visited her office to inquire about putting up hotels.

In 2010, 74 commercial buildings worth P222 million were built, according to records at Tacloban City engineering office. The next year, 61 more, with a total cost of P180 million, were constructed. As of July this year, 21 other buildings were going up.

Some of the new buildings will house

food establishments and companies that have main branches either in Metro Manila or Cebu.

"The rise of several commercial buildings serves Tacloban is a welcome development as it is a testament that it is a growing city," said businessman Jerry Uy, legal officer of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Tacloban chapter.

"With the competitiveness of the business environment nowadays, businesses are left with no option but to construct new buildings or lease space in newly constructed buildings to strategic locations in the city," Uy said.

Suppliers

The construction boom also benefited dealers of building materials in terms of increased sales.

"Our sales of construction materials, incidentally cement, have increased between 10 and 20 percent," said Reynaldo Chan, owner of Tree Hardware.

Rodolfo Padilla, a former president of the Tacloban Contractors Association, said the ongoing construction projects "generate the much-needed employment for our people and even those coming from nearby areas."

One project, he explained, would require the hiring of laborers, numbering from a hundred to 1,000, depending on its size.

Both the regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment and the National Statistics Office, however, do not have data on how many jobs have so far been created.

"If you are now building a thing, it only means one thing: There is really a construction boom here in Tacloban," Mayor Alfred Romualdez said.

He said this development would be good for the city government since it would generate revenues, aside from providing employment opportunities.

In 2010, the city government raised P6.37 million in building fees and another P6.20 million in 2011, records from the City Treasurer's Office showed.

PSC: We're proud of our Olympians

By Mari Anthony Reyes

TEAM Philippines still deserves a warm welcome.

The Philippine Sports Commission yesterday (next) plans to put up a welcome ceremonies for the members of the national delegation that will go home empty-handed from the London Olympics on Aug. 14.

The 11 man delegation all dropped their respective matches, the last one BMX biker Daniel Caluag who failed to reach the semifinals Thursday.

PSC commissioner Buddy Andrada, head of the reception committee, said there wasn't too very harsher when the contingent arrives but the agency will be giving assistance just in case some of them needed transportation from the airport.

"We are happy for the athletes and we are still very proud of them," said Andrada. "Just to qualify for the Olympics is good enough," he added.

The PSC didn't immediately said who are joining the flight back home although homegrown athletes like boxer Mark Anthony Barriga, marksmen Marestella Torres and Rene Herrera, archers Mark Javier and Rachelle Cabral, swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Lacuna and weightlifter Nikki Dimoi are expected to be among the passengers.

He didn't offer any excuse for the outcome of the PH campaign in the Olympics—the fourth straight losses the country didn't win a single medal.

"It's the Olympics, everybody who is great in their own sport are there," said Andrada. "You're also have to consider a lot of factors. There are other countries that also went home without a medal."

He said the PSC will soon focus on the 2013 Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar.

SALVADOR: Final duel with Lamoiela

ABOITIZ INVITATIONAL

Salvador grabs one-stroke lead

CEBU—Elmer Salvador outstrugged Jeric Lamoiela in the thrilling one-hour showdown between two of the country's leading marksmen, firing a six-under 65 and wresting a one-stroke lead in the Aboitiz Invitational Presented by ICTSI yesterday.

With the next best player being seven shots off Lamoiela, the fight for the top $1,375 purse has come down to the two. Lexandros who shared the halfway lead in the $65,000 event at Cebu Country Club Thursday.

"It will come down to who gets her first," said Lamoiela, bracing for another duel with Salvador, who carped ahead at eight under 208, in today's final round of the four-leg tournament that is sponsored by Manila Equity Resources, Inc.

Lamoiela shot a bogey-free 66 in another challenging, scorching day marred by rains in the afternoon but had to settle for second at 206 in the face of Salvador's fiery third round charge in the Tri-hole championship event of the International Container Terminal Services, Inc.

Salvador not really built a two-shot cushion heading to the par-4 18 but middle his drive and flubbed a par-post bid from 12 feet to enable Lamoiela to come to within one.

"He's playing solid but I like my chances. It will be a good match tomorrow (today)," said Lamoiela, the current Order of Merit leader on the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour.

He also took notice of Salvador's superb stint on the putting green where the leader birdied with a series of one-putts that spilled his 21-3/4 card.

"I was very lucky. I didn't have a good day with my driver but I've pulled it off such a lot of one-putts," said Salvador.

Elmer Salam, another bet from Davao, will be the third man in the final flight but he moved too far behind at even 214 despite a solid 67 in the company of Marc Pezon, winner of the ICTSI Iloilo Golf Challenge two weeks ago who carded a 68.

Singaporean George Jackson shot a 69 to emerge the leading foreign player at 216 on a tie with Ruben Suarez and Hiuru Quinchoco, who made 68s and 73, respectively.

Defending champion Jay Bacaro failed to make a third round charge with a four-over 76 and slipped to joint eighth at 217, 11 strokes off Salvador.

Other four-over par scores were Kenzo Kit Gi-ahun (70), Jerry Guido Van der Valk (71) and Richard Sinchange (72).

Salvador, winner at ICTSI Sherwood Hills, broke out of a tie with Lamoiela early with birdies on the first two holes but the latter erased both just as quickly, pumping down a 12 footer on par-3 hole a solid 5-iron fade shot off a stymied lie. They remained tied with pars at the next five holes before Salvador moved up again by two with birdies on Nos. 8 and 9.

He stretched it to three with another birdie on the 10th but Lamoiela fought back with his own back-to-back birdies (Nos. 11, and 12) to fall behind by two again as Salvador birdied the 17th.

(More leaders of the pack and coverage of the next leg of the ICTSI tour begins 6:00 Monday, Aug. 13, at the Manila Southwoods Golf Club, Cavite. Blue Eagle Gamboa's and Team Sun Valley's Jhonnel Ravanes are tied for fifth, while Jay Bacaro, Jason Domingo and Jonathan Garlan complete the top 10.)

Bullpups stretch win streak to 5; Tiger Cubs whip Eaglets

By Jasmine W. Payo

DEFENDING juniors champion National University stretched its unbeaten run to five games, while its women's teams also picked up a victory in UAAP basketball action yesterday at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Reggie Mendiz drilled 19 points as the Bullpups doubled another University of the East, 100-58, to move a win ahead of idle Ateneo to secure a Final Four berth.

Rajstad Amante and Ralph Rosa chipped in a combined 26 points for the Bullpups, who stunned the Baby Tamaraws in last season's finals.

The Lady Bullpups, though, escaped by the slimmest of margins against the La Salle Lady Archers, 66-65, in women's action.

Edee Ada netted the crucial free throw in the closing seconds as the Lady Bullpups held their victims at 3-2.

In other juniors results, Alvin Ungria accounted 21 points to power University of Santo Tomas past Ateneo, 83-77, while Jimuel Balinda fired 24 markers to lift La Salle Zobel to a 78-69 win over Adamson.

Both the Tiger Cubs and the Junior Archers improved to 3-2 as the Blue Eaglets (2-3) and the Baby Tamaraws (1-4) slipped.

Meanwhile, badminton action will set today with Ateneo and UST vying to defend their crowns.

The Blue Eagles, led by last year's MVP Toby Cecil, start their bid to look more to do his against La Salle at 9 a.m. at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall.

Spartan Mining chess today at Rizal Park

INTERNATIONAL Master Ronald Dalmo and former Olympian Ed Chito Garma will do the ceremonial moves at the start of the Spartan Mining Corporation one-minute chess championship at Rizal Park Chess Plaza in Manila today.

Joining Dalmo and Garma is National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) director and Spartan Mining Corp. president Leni U. Barnes, also the chair of the organizing Filoil Pack Chess Foundation (IE: 0467851).

The one-day event is open to all non-master and ranked players.

Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers, with the champion getting P5,000, the runner-up P4,000 and the third placer P3,000.

The fourth placer will get P2,000, the fifth placer P1,000 and the sixth up to 10th placers P500. Registration fee is P350.

For inquiries and other details, interested parties may contact Bel Llanza at 8926-1784952, Bryer Lim at 8906-4795289 and Eugene Tuazon at 0920-4171587.

'Caluag will get Olympic medal soon'

By Jane Macaraeg

CYCLING president and Tagaytay City mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino can't bring hope that Daniel Caluag will one day stand on the Olympic podium.

"He will come one younger and more focused next time around," said Tolentino, head of PhilCycling, the local association of the Union Cycliste Internationale, the sport's world governing body.

Tolentino said Caluag, who missed the distinction of becoming the only Asian competitor in the event, will be back in prayers in high caliber races beginning with the Southeast Asian Games next year and the 2014 Asian Games in the buildup for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Caluag missed the semifinals of the men's BMX competition in London Olympics Thursday night, qualifying the Philippine lad to end a long medal drought in the Games.

"He already made an impact when our flag flattened three times in the BMX track inside the Olympic Park," said Tolentino.

According to Tolentino, Caluag, a former No. 1 BMX rider in the US, lost his touch after a long lull in training the past few years due to his studies.

The 25-year-old son of Filipino migrants James Ruffolo and Sharon Caluag is finishing his BS Nursing degree in the US.

"He's not in the list of priority sports but we'll be back," said Tolentino, noting that cycling was excluded in the 10 focus sports identified by the government.

Despite the discipline's non-inclusion in the priority list, Caluag was promised access of two Filipino Olympians who could break the ice in the Olympics.

The last time the Philippines went up the Olympic podium was during the 1996 Atlanta Games when boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco finished with a silver medal.

Race 1—[illegible]
Race 2—[illegible]
Race 3—[illegible]
Race 4—[illegible]
Race 5—[illegible]
Race 6—[illegible]
Race 7—[illegible]
Race 8—[illegible]
Race 9—[illegible]
Race 10—[illegible]
By Top Choice
de San Lorenzo LP

Manila lasses Big League Softball World Series champs at last

SACRAMENTO—With an Olympic size effort that keeps the mind off of any awful shooting at the London Games somewhere, the relentless Asia Pacific squad, also Manila softballers, finally got their act together as a team to win the Big League Softball World Series Wednesday (Thursday in the Philippines).

The Manila lasses went to town, pummeling their rivals from Hawaii, 9-0, in the seven-inning championship game beamed by ESPN2 Sports from Pilkton Field in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

With the five-inning victory, the Manilans reasserted their first ever Big League World Series title after runner-up finishes in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Bounced last year by a Philippine Only Inquirer story that stained the ball rolling for a handsoming effort that seemed too ripe to fail, Manila's Stars then, the team barely made it to Kalamazoo again this year. It took the effort of Manila Councilor Rafael "Che" Bernardo to send the team to the World Series in the eleventh hour.

Manila's scoring machine has been moved out cuts in every inning team.

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Dello

ranging 14 hits and building a 7-0 lead before the match ends open after only two innings.

After producing a run each in the third and fourth, the Philippine team scored five runs in the fifth for build a 14-0 lead before their Pete Rogue (5 run from the Los Angeles area managed three hits to get on the board and spoil Raza Bernardino's shutout bid.

The eight-handed Bernardino is a team veterans who endured last year's heartbreaking loss to Grand Rapids in the finals.

"The fourth time is the charm, Westchester manager Darryl Lee told ESPN2 after the game. "They [Hawaii team] lost the first two games and won seven in a row. They slayed last all the way through."

Manila manager Ana Santiago cracked the team for its 3rd-like performance. "We finally won and have made history," she said from Los Angeles where she, Bernardino and the softballers, members of Southern California's Filipino-American community whose members have hosted and treated team members like family since the country started stocking representatives to the finales a decade ago.

The ESPN2 telecast of Wednesday's championship match, played in cold 53d Atlantic weather, often seemed to us a stable gallery of Fil-Ams who were out to cheer the Wonders all the way through.

"The 20-man of Kalamazoo have not only blessed us with their renowned hospitality and civic pride," said Vandenberg. "They have enriched our sports loving character and our lives."

Councilor Bernardo said he had gotten the support of former Presidente Joseph Estrada, Vice President Jejo Binay, Manila Vice Mayor Isko Moreno and other benefactors in the Philippines for various the on-line fans of the team to Michigan.

FUSCHIA CHAMPS, PERFECT GAMER The team of (from left) Alvin Ru, Justin Ko, Jeff Chan, and Nikki Bel Bak showing smiles after topping the finals of the 13th Fusion Invitational of the Sta. Lucia Town Bowling Association held recently at the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal. In the same tournament, Jong Enriquez (right photo) posted his 28th perfect game. Enriquez used a Ghost Pearl Reactive by Hammer to achieve the feat on lanes 31-32.

Rexona Run reset to Sept. 23

IN LINE with its commitment to give the best experience to its runners, the Rexona Run slated tomorrow, August 12 at the Mall of Asia grounds has been reset to Sept. 23.

The extreme weather that has hit Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon prompted Rexona and Kaadlaan to reset the much anticipated event to ensure that runners are fully in place for a safe and enjoyable race. That will give the officials and participants who were affected by the heavy rains and flooding enough time to recover and recharge.

The 3rd Rexona Run will have events in 21 K Solo, 21 K Relay and 5K races.

The top 3 finishers in the 21K solo will take home P7,000, 5,000, and 4,000; while P9,000, 6,000, and 5,000 will be awarded to each member of the top finishers in the 21K Relay division. The top three 5K finishers will pocket P4,000, 3,000 and 2,000 in that order.

For updates, check out the Rexona Men Facebook page, visit www.rexona.com or call/text 09273177508, 09257178164 or 09178194.

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Woods 3 behind leader

RAPHAM HILLS, South Carolina—Tiger Woods made three bogeys and still shot 69 in the first round of the PGA Championship on Thursday, while Rory McIlroy was even better, breezing through the day with barely a misstep.

At one point, a 38-year-old from the Netherlands named Joost Luiten looked poised to challenge the major championship scoring record of 63. That didn't happen, but on the first day of the PGA Championship, the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island was in a forgiving mood.

"It's a little bit softer so that makes the fairways wider, and the wind really hasn't blown, and the greens are still a little bit soft," first-round leader Carl Pettersson said.

Pettersson shot a 6-under 66 to take a one-shot lead, but the last one of several players who took advantage of the favorable scoring on a steamy day. McIlroy was one of four players at 3 under, and even John Daly worked his way into the mix, part of a big group at 68.

In all, there were 44 rounds under par, the most in the opening round since there were 45 at Winchmit in 2000.

Woods was three strokes back after a middle-history day. He's trying to end the longest drought of his career in the majors. This is his 14th major since he won his last one in 2008.

"Anything in the 60s is going to be a good start in a major championship," Woods said. "And I'm right there."

McIlroy, Gary Woodland, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castaneo of Spain and Alex Noren of Sweden each had 67. Fernandez-Castaneo and Noren played in the afternoon but weren't too bothered by the elements.

"It was quite breezy this afternoon," Fernandez-Castaneo said. "I don't think it's as much about how much. Maybe it's the direction. The wind was kind of helping on the last few holes."

Luiten was at 8 under before bogeying his last four holes to finish at 66. Daly was even with him after round one—the 1991 champion made an eagle on the par-5 11th hole.

"I just want to play," Daly said. "I love to play golf, but as long as I walk out of here knowing I played and I did the best I can, that's all that matters. And the way I'm hitting it, I just don't want to get too up or too down about it."

Daly was in the group at 4 under that included former US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy and defending PGA champion Keegan Bradley, who had a birdie-eagle start before he needed just his round.

Adam Scott, in his first major since throwing away the British Open with four bogeys on his last four holes, quickly got back into contention with a 68.

AP WOODS. Five right there.

Petron wants Fajardo

By Mycaya R. Cuzilla

MACAO—The Philippine Basketball Association's leadership hunted down no-this-time gambling Marco Fajardo this afternoon and, before bustling down to work, members of the board got the time to think about the coming Rookie Draft and their team's prospective picks.

Petron Blaze will definitely make goals-glama 6-foot-5 Cebuano Jon Mar Fajardo as the first overall choice in the Aug. 19 proceedings set at the Robinson's Midland in Manila, and the rest of the field will then be left scrambling for the last available talents left to the deep pool.

Alaska picks second and the Aces, according to assistant team manager Richard Bachmann, is torn on selecting either Ateneo backstops Gabby Ahanes or Cliff Hodge as their selection will depend on value the board approves will be the height limits for imports in two of the three conferences.

Meanwhile, the board and the Commissioner's Office gave the nod for a charity game being organized by Alaska's dynamic duo Banchs which would benefit victims of the flooding in Metro Manila.

The match will be held on Aug. 26 at Filoil Flying V Arena in Sta. Rosa, Laguna governor Ian Torres waived charges for the use of the venue. The Commissioner's Office will also provide referees and table officials for free.

Petron has the third overall choice and its selection would depend on who Alaska picks. The Boosters are also keen on Ahanes and Hodge, two hard-working power forwards that can immediately make an impact in the pro league.

Robert Jaworski of Barangay Ginebra will be named chair for the new season, set to blast off with the Philippine Cup on Sept. 30, and he's taken over from Rudy or Blaise Schlumberger Hinchliffe.

The league established an all-time high in gate receipts with a take of over P130 million, easily eclipsing last year's record of P93 million.

And Hun, in a chat before departing in Manila, said that he is confident of surpassing that mark because he feels that there are still untapped revenues for the PBA as far as revenues are concerned.

The fate of Mikee Romero's Kaltan 980 will also be decided upon by the board late Friday with Romero's group needing at least two-thirds vote to be able to become the league's newest member size Coca-Cola/Powerade.

Romero bought the Coca-Cola franchise at an undisclosed amount recently and, if admitted, would fulfill his lifelong dream of being able to own a professional basketball franchise.

Final PH Youth roster named

By Jasmine W. Payo

LAAP juniors star Jette Pingoy and two division big men beef up the Smart-ers Filipinas under-16 team set to compete in the 22nd Fiba Asia U16 Championship next week in Mongolia.

Pingoy, a 5-foot-8 guard from the Eastern University, makes his international debut a year after bagging the UAAP Juniors Most Valuable Player plum.

Kris Perez, a former UAAP juniors Mythical Team member, also joins the youth team's bid for the first time, while fellow division seniors squad rookie Gideon Babilonia suit up anew.

Babilonia returns with under-16 team holdovers Jay Alejandro and Hubert Cani (National University), Jay Jovelan (Holy Innocents) and Prince Rivero (La Salle Green Hills).

"We're more experienced," said national youth coach Chris Rondo. "We're in the toughest group, so we'll need their experience and strength to going up against bigger opponents."

The Philippines got drawn in Group B with two-time champion Iran, 2008 runner-up Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia for the preliminary round of the tournament dated August 17 to 26 in Ulaanbaatar.

Completing the 12-man lineup are guard Jiey Nartatez (Letran), forwards Mats Ibrahim (La Salle Green Hills), Kyle Soares (University of the Philippines) and Mark Olayon (University of the East) and center Kent Lao (University of Santo Tomas).

"We'd like to thank the UAAP and the NCAA for hosting their players," said Rondo.

In previous campaigns, the youth team missed the cut-down of several key cogs since the international basketball calendar coincides with the host varsity leagues.

The 16-nation contest serves as a qualifier for the Fiba U19 World Championship set in Czech Republic from June 27 to July 7, 2013.

Spotlight on Manila-based Azkals in twin US matches

By Cedrik F. Tupas

LOS ANGELES—The spotlight will be on the Philippine-based members of the national side when the Azkals open action in a couple of friendly matches in Chicago and Indianapolis on Aug. 11 and 18.

With some of the Europe-based players unavailable due to club commitments, the Azkals will be relying to the core based in Manila as they suit up their buildup for the fourth Cup late this year.

"It's a fresh lineup and we have a good mix," said Azkals coach Michael Weiss, who served as the Azkals co-interim coach prior his stint in the SFC Challenge Cup early this year.

"There are veterans and young players who will be with us even in Manila after the camp. And having this training time will be crucial to the preparations [for Suzuki Cup]."

Phil Age and James Younghusband have begged off from the camp because of prior commitments, but stalwarts like Chieffy Caligdong and Aly Borromeo as well as Ronald Dep here Chris Greenwich are still amassed to power the Azkals campaign.

In the absence of the likes of Paul Mulders, Stephan Schrock, Jerry Lucena and Emelio Caganz, local-based players like Anto Gonzales, Simon and Marwin Angeles and Ian Araneta could have more playing time in the coaches against the Chicago Inferno on Aug. 11 at Toyo Soccer Stadium and the US Virgin Islands on Aug. 18.

Veterans Nirmerie Marjanne and Rod Gonzales are also part of the side in the Chicago camp. Azkals manager Dan Palami said the veteran players' presence provide stability and leadership in the preparations.

"The veterans know their roles in the team, and they are as important as any player in the team," said Palami.

Palami is hopeful that the Azkals' fitness and cohesion, which have both been a concern for Weiss, will be addressed in the Chicago camp.

Weiss could work behind the attacking quartet of Caligdong, Dennis Wolf, Mingoh Bernardo and Patrick Reichelt in the Chicago camp.

"It's a perfect opportunity for them to prove their worth," said Weiss of Balualosos and Reichelt, who are among the second-stringers in the Azkals' lineup when the Europe-based players are available.

HOPE SOARS

Solo effort powers US to gold

WEMBLEY, England—Hope Solo found herself enveloped in a group hug at the third whistle. Abby Wambach rose to join the fun in a celebration that unleashed a year of bottled-up frustration.

The US women's football team won its third straight Olympic gold medal Thursday beating Japan, 2-1, in a rematch of last year's World Cup final and avenging the most painful loss in its history.

Loch Lloyd scored early in both halves, Solo leaped and dived to make saves, and the entire team found the redemption it had been seeking since that penalty kick shootout loss at Germany last summer.

"This is the dream that we've all been working about and feeling for the last year since the World Cup," Wambach said.

Before 80,203 at Wembley Stadium, a record crowd for a women's football game at the Olympics, the reserve put on its back-and-forth, don't-miss-your-heart football showcase, proving again that these are the two premier teams in the world.

"I just kept pounding my chest, going 'Guys, this is only about heart. We're all tired, every player on the field. Twenty-two players on the field are tired," Wambach said. "It's about who wants it more, right here, right now. And today we proved that we did it."

The Japanese perhaps played just as beautifully as the downtrens, using their speed and discipline to dominate possession and scoring chances for long stretches before finally cutting a 2-0 deficit in half with about a half hour to go.

"The result was tough on us, but I'm glad to get a medal," Yukari Inoga said. "We just wanted to challenge ourselves. We weren't relaxed but we weren't nervous. We just wanted to enjoy the game."

Japan twice hit the crossbar and missed on several opportunities from close range. And in one of its last chances of the match, Solo made a brilliant save off a shot by Mana Iwabuchi in the 82nd minute.

Solo is known almost as much for the controversy she stirs up off the field as she is for the saves she makes.

"I hope Solo, she says a lot on Twitter, I guess, I don't follow her," coach Pia Sundhage said. "But what a moment in time. Lot of years player and she still have the quickness. Today I hope Solo had a very good game. She brought the gold back to the United States of America."

Barb Jones, Americans were paying attention—just as it was last year and despite the rest of the Olympic events, from President Barack Obama, during a campaign speech at a basketball game during the second half of the game, noted that, "Americans are doing pretty good right now in soccer."

Lloyd's goals came in eighth and 54th minutes, making it four goals in the tournament for the midfielder who shot her long-held scoring jolt awoke before the Olympics. She got back on the pitch when Shannon Boxx injured her hamstring in the opening game.

Yuki Ogimi answered in the 63rd minute but had a chance foiled by Solo, who stood tall her line to bravely block the shot. Then moments later the scrambled Ogimi powered a header to the goal, only for Solo to produce a superb reflex save the rebound. AP, Reuters

Coming soon: Excuses, finger-pointing

LONDON—Stunt yourselves for another round of finger pointing.

The buzz around the Philippine quarters in the Athletes Village is that officials here and in Manila are already drafting excuses for the country's latest gaping debacle at the London Olympics.

The buzz now can only make a few guesses of the ability, each one strategically predictable and worn out:

"Let's go back to the drawing board!"

"There's something wrong with the program, it's time for a complete review."

"The government budget for sports is not enough."

"There's lack of support from Malacañang."

"Give the Philippine Sports Commission its Constitutionally mandated share from Pagcor's profits and athletes will deliver."

COMMENTARY

Up to the performance disaster once the Philippine contingent returns to Manila. No one, it seems, will ever want to take the fall for the athletes' failings.

How you ever heard of a Filipino sports official who accepted the blame for how he or she let the athletes failed to produce? Never, so one to never memory at least.

For sure, there will be a chorus from both houses of Congress for the requisite hile officials to explain the London fiasco. They will request funds as well.

But no, Filipino sports officials are made of meaner stuff and, as sure as the sun rises in the east, will wonder the hubub as adroitly as they'll kick loose an in the past.

There were a thousand and one things that contributed to the woeful performance at the London contingent, they would say. Blame could be attributed to bad direction or mismanagement.

In the end, it will be the poor athletes who will take the flak for the bonanza. It is the athletes, deprived of full government attention, who competed in the first place, isn't it?

Lady pugs notch trailblazing victories

LONDON—A popular Irish lightweight, British flyweight and enormous middleweight punched their way to the first Olympic women's boxing gold medals on Thursday.

Katie Taylor was cheered on by raucous Irish supporters, as was Nicola Adams by the host country fans at the five-day London Excel landmark tournament.

Clarissa Shields' effort was a dominant victory by an exuberant American teenager who cleaned, brushed and even mush out low tongue.

After falling to her knees at the final overdue to a 10-8 win over Russia's Sofya Ochigava, Taylor took a victory lap of the arena after the medal ceremony, trailing a green, white and orange Irish flag behind her.

Adams got nearly as much crowd support as Taylor, but her victory was even more purposive. She stunned world champion Yeo Limone of China in a 16-7 victory with cheers from a crowd that included the Duchess of Cambridge, formerly Kate Middleton.

Shields' power and cleverness were to too much for Russia's 33-year-old Nadezda Torlopova, nearly twice Shields' age and half her speed at times.

Nine boxers in the tournament could match Shields' dreamweight during a 19-12 victory over Torlopova. AP

OUTSPOKEN! American goalkeeper Hope Solo celebrates after the United States beat Japan in the finals. AP

Debate on Bolt 'legend' grows

LONDON—"Legend." A small word, but with such weight of meaning. Usain Bolt launched it around a lot before the London Olympics, saying these would be the games where he wanted to become one.

He did. But not solely for the reasons he thinks.

Becoming the first man to win the 200-meter sprint at two Olympics made Bolt a pioneer, but that feat, while historic, isn't in itself enough to make him legendary.

Nor is becoming the first sprinter to win both the 100 and 200 races at two consecutive games. That is the supposed claim Bolt made after he completed Thursday. And that, as far as he was concerned, was mission accomplished.

"I am now a living legend. Bask in my glory," he said.

Bolt has legend traits on more than just the new pages he has written in record books. He's a legend for the mass reaction. Michael Jordan is. And that is mostly because of the way he combined black panther under the banner name of Jordan in Chicago.

They read. "The last three ever was. The best three ever will be."

Some people become legends for a legendary feat.

Bob Beamon fits into that category, before his leap at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968, the world record in long jump had taken 40 years to grow by 35 centimeters (1 foot, 9.8 inches). Beamon added that much again in one jump.

Bolt would wrench a few 100 and 200 also made the seemingly impossible seemingly easy. That's the stuff of legends.

In London, it felt almost disappointing that Bolt didn't break his world records. But that is easily a measure of how far Bolt has pushed the boundaries of sprinting. Even Bolt can't beat Bolt every time.

He 100 in London, at 9.63 seconds, was the second fastest ever. And his 19.32 seconds in winning the 200 on Thursday was as fast as Michael Johnson ever was.

Jacques Rogge, the IOC president, thinks it's too early to award Bolt a legend. He suggests Bolt needs to compete in the Rio de Janeiro in 2016 first.

But Rogge says a Bolt party pooper in Beijing, too, pushing limits in his victory celebrations, saying he should "show more respect for his competitors and make bands."

Rogge didn't get it then, and doesn't seem to get it now.

Bolt is master for the Olympics, for sport and for his sport, but only a superior athlete but charming, funny and, as his an ear knows, just display.

The Oxford English Dictionary is more helpful than Rogge in trying to understand Bolt's "legend" claim.

It says the word can mean: "an extremely famous or notorious person."

Few people on this planet are more famous than Bolt.

But it can also mean "a story" something recounted now and even.

And that fits Bolt perfectly.

The best three ever will be? Even with Justin, no one can really tell.

But Bolt is the best sprinter there ever was. Everything he is and everything he has done are stories that will be told and retold.

And that is why Bolt is now a legend. AP

Last PH bet crashes out

From page A 18

sentimental edition and by Reuben Chukpaya, a member of a house from Kazakhstan.

Torres gave everything she had in the 10-meter preliminary only to miss by the size of her trash chute the semifinal grade of 6.40 and, which was much shorter than her recent leaps, to show her national record 6.05/1.716.

"I never prepared, I did every thing out there," said Cabang, who entered up and with Juliet Manuel de Sarchi at the tail of Heat 3 with 25 points. "This is one thing. You said: tell when you're off or not. You go out there to fight."

Marc Wilson of New Zealand and French No. 2 seed Jony Gauthier qualified in the semifinals outright by finishing 1-2 after three runs with 4 and 7 points, respectively. Wilkes, who won Runs 1 and 3, and Run 2 victor Gauthier left the battle for the last two spots to Cabang, De Sarchi, American David Brennan and Nicholas Gonzales and Igor Bogdanovich, and Argentinian Ernesto Pessoa.

Brennan, who won Run 4, and Bogdanovich later rounded the heat's semifinalists with 16 points after four runs.

Cabang could have posted a finish better than fifth in the first final semifinal round before following a six-man spill right at the first turn. He got up ahead of everyone but failed to clear the next jump as quickly as he wanted.

Speed off the ramp thwarted the Filipina-American from the second run on and he overcompensated only to overspeed competing. But with his pedal speed roaring and his compensative inefficiency in the jumps running up to be a heavy drag, Cabang couldn't hope for qualification.

"Three talented brakes all over my body," he said. "But I didn't mind them because I really wanted to make the next stage. Glad I was not injured in that spill."

Still, Cabang said he is ready for another tour of duty for the country.

"I'd be happy to represent the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games or the Asian Games," he said. "I'm really honored to be part of the team."

DEJAN Teresa J. [2] of the United States crashes into Australia's Samantha Richards during their semifinal elimination.

American women eye 4th straight hoop title

LONDON—Four-time defending champion United States rallied Australia's offense and shut down its towering center Liz Cambage in the second half for a 86-73 win, advancing to the final of the women's Olympic basketball tournament.

The US team played and beat Australia for the last three gold medals, but this time it will face France, which made the final in only its second Olympic appearance.

Edwige Lawson-Wade scored 18 points and Emilie Gomis added 15 to help France beat Russia, 81-64, in the other semifinal Thursday.

France, like the US, the only unbeaten team, is assured of winning its first medal in women's basketball with the semifinal win.

Céline Dumerc continued her stellar play for France. The captain finished with 13 points against Russia and has hit several clutch shots for the French during their impressive Olympic tournament run.

"We had some hope before. It's huge, to get into final for first time," Dumerc said.

Tina Charles and Diana Taurasi scored 14 points each for the Americans, who have won 48 consecutive Olympic contests dating back to the bronze medal game in 1992.

The Americans, who had cruised through their first six Olympic matches, were challenged by the Australians and their 6-foot-8 center Cambage, who scored 26 points in the first half and helped her team take a 47-40 lead at the break.

But she was held scoreless in the second of the break and the US stepped up defensive pressure in a dominant 16-6 run in the third.

Sue Bird said stopping Cambage was the first of many things the American talked about during the break.

"Our feeling her got deep," Bird said was the priority. The US point guard added that the strategy was to jam Cambage where she was running the floor and prevent her from getting low-post position. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

...ON OLY...

Last P...

By Ted S. Mckendree, Sports Editor

Gabriel Cuba... Puerto Rican grab... remarkable race to... bars and medals out of the... last Thursday. Moving a field... ratings a succession of gold... prizes at the 2016 London Olympic...

Cuba's indigent trip to... vastly superior opposition stumbl... It exhibits contingent's policy... these Games to rebuke all but... mock the normal mood of this... sports.

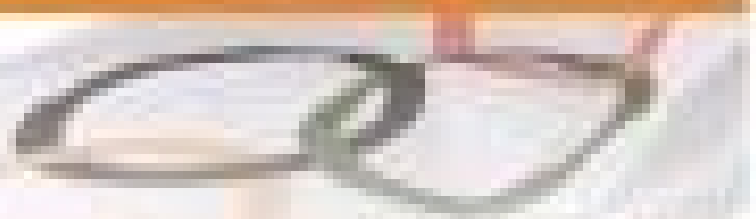
Gabriel Cuba underestimated...

Gabriel Cuba (right) negotiates a jump during the quarterfinals of BMX racing.

AILY INQUIRER

Lito Rodriguez S. Melendres
Associate Editor Francis T. Ochoa

YMPICS



H bet crashes out

he came to win at the 49th senior Olympic meet and she made it happen, as reminiscent his capabilities. Or both.

Onolaught in the purple and pitilessly lacking in pedal speed, the 11 year-old running ace-dent from Harbor City, California, finished dead last twice and came no higher than fifth place in the eight-man five quarterfinals.

Cuteog, hailed as a former four-time No. 1 pin in the United States, was not as good as advertised, said an official of the PH delegation who nevertheless praised the rider's grit.

Still with a mathematical chance of joining the four semifinal qualifiers after three races—he lay three points behind the fourth man—Cuteog came in grief in the fourth spin by placing second to last (6th in 8:20.).

"You know I gave it my all for the Philippines," he said. "I thought I could come back stronger in the third and fourth rides. Overall, I'm happy with my performance."

Cuteog's unending exit interview drew a throng, jumper Henrietta Evora and light flyweight boxer Mark Anthony Barriga—perhaps the two most talked-about homecomings for Filipino fans.

Barriga broke the Filipinos' victory jinx over two Olympians by easily outpointing Italian Vincenzo Coppola in the first round but was then denied passage to the quarterfinals by an

LAST PAGE

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Vellaire L. Contreras

Receding flood reveals boy's body in QC

THE BODY who went missing in the raging floods on Tuesday was found dead Friday morning in one of the remote villages in Quezon City. The receding water in Barangay Talanga revealed the bloated remains of Rommel Carreon, 6. The boy, along with his brother and several others, fell off the Marcelgan boat (watch) in which they all capsized due to the driving currents. Barangay chair Cristell Beltran said the Carreons of Clemencia Street had been repeatedly told to evacuate before the flood but did not heed the warning. **Julie M. Aurelio**

MMDA flood control chief sacked

'Laxity' blamed for idled pumping stations in Taguig, QC

By Nikko Calleja and Jayvee T. Garcil

HEADS finally rolled.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Francis Tolentino has sacked the agency's flood control office chief for "laxity bordering on incompetence" during the torrential monsoon rains earlier this week.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Tolentino said Rafaelan Melgar (Melo's) reason that the pumping stations in Taguig City and P. Tuazon (aerial (in Cubao, Quezon City) are operational before the floods hit these areas."

Melgar, who has been the head of the flood control office for 10 years since the chairmanship of Bayani Fernando, will be replaced by Maximo Quitandino who heads the MMDA's Operations and Maintenance Division 1.

Tolentino said several MMDA employees in the Taguig pumping stations were also relieved of their posts.

"We need a proactive flood control chief. He allowed the Laguna de Bay vs navell sitchmat retaining that the pumping stations had been attached the night before," Tolentino said.

On Wednesday, pumping stations designed to prevent flooding in areas near Laguna de Bay—including several barangays in Taguig...were idle starting in the early morning till mid-afternoon.

This was because the refloating truck which was then on its way to the pumping stations could not pass through the flooded roads and had to wait for hours for the water to subside, Tolentino said.

In Barangay Napindan, for example, the water rose quickly just before noon till 3 p.m., cutting off transportation and flooding hundreds of homes.

As to the P. Tuazon tunnel which was rendered inoperable to vehicles on Wednesday the flood control chief failed to install pumps to siphon off the water, Tolentino noted.

Asked why he no longer asked for Melgar to give his side, Tolentino said Melgar had already committed "too many breaches" in the past.

According to the MMDA chair, Melgar allowed the hole on the MMDA barge stationed in the Tullahan River to go unfixed and "unreported for five years."

He said he only learned about the damaged barge in a recent meeting with Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco.

Reached for comment, Melgar, an engineer, said: "It's not me! Such because we're only involved in operations and we simply receive our fuel supply [sigo nagpapa lang kami]."

"We have on Tuesday that we were running out of fuel so we submitted emergency purchase requests to Tolentino for 6,000 liters for each of the 12 pumping stations. I don't know what happened to these PRs," he said.

In Taguig, even the city hall and the local police headquarters were not spared by the deluge.

City police chief Senior Supt. Tomas Apolinario said the city hall and his main station which share the same compound in Barangay Bakakeo were still swamped in knee-high flood as of yesterday.

Apolinario blamed the situation on the "breakdown" of a nearby pumping station."

A police liaison desk was set up at the auditoriums of Taguig City University so his men could also help in the expeditious distribution of relief goods, he said.

Around 3,000 families had since been evacuated in the city, Apolinario added.

As of late Friday afternoon, portions of Barangay Napindan, Bagumbayan, Lepid Tipas, Pinagsama, San Miguel, Lower Bicutan, New Lower Bicutan, C5 northbound lane, and Levi Mariano in Taguig remained underwater and impassable to light vehicles.

SPECIAL BABY BATH A woman washes a mud-stained Sto. Niño statue in Tanauan, Marikina City, on Friday as millions of Metro Manila residents start to clean up and bounce back from this week's massive floods —AFP

Trash mounts as waters ebb: 'We all contributed to this'

THE TONS of garbage collected from the Manila Bay seawall and which filled more than 200 dump trucks last week are enough compared to what lies ahead.

Authorities expect the massive, post-disaster cleanup around Metro Manila to take days or even weeks following the flash floods that covered many parts of the capital earlier this week.

"This is our collective liability. All of us in one way or another contributed to this," said Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino, who oversaw cleanup operations in the worst-hit areas in Quezon City and Marikina City on Friday.

"The garbage we see now is definitely greater than what we had collected along Roxas Boulevard (facing Manila Bay) last week," he said, referring to the vast carpet of trash that washed up on the recently repaired seawall due to the storm surge triggered by Tropical Storm "Gener."

He noted that "50 to 35 percent of Metro Manila's garbage is not collected," especially the trash thrown into rivers and waterways.

In Quezon City, waste management officials said they had already collected close to 200 tons of garbage in just four relatively areas since Thursday.

In Manila, the agency managing Estal Park said it would need volunteers to help clean up the 52-hectare area also known as Luneta.

Kenneth Hemregracio, concessionaires head of the National Parks Committee of the Philippine Tourism Authority said the heavy rains and floods damaged the gardens and other landscaped areas of the park.

Hemregracio estimated the cost of the damage at P5 million.

Parts of the roof of the Quirino Grandstand also needed repairs, he said. "The park remains open to the public but needs cleaning up and we need volunteers to speed up its restoration," he added.

Road repairs set

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is set to start road repairs in areas affected by floods in Metro Manila.

DPWH Undersecretary Alfredo Tolentino said priority will be given to areas in arterial roads including Edsa, C5 Road, Roxas Boulevard, Taft Avenue, and Quezon Boulevard.

He said the agency had already started "squaring" segments of those major thoroughfares for asphalt-laying operations.

Work will also start in "re-blocked" sections of Commonwealth Street in San Jose City.

Tolentino said it would take at least four days to repair a 20-meter long Bonifacio section of Marcos Highway in Antipolo City that was damaged during the days of heavy rains.

"The heavy rains from the nearby mountains scoured what was beneath the roadway, thus causing the pavement to collapse. There is a reinforced concrete pipe beneath the road but it was unable to contain the excessive volume of rain," the official explained. *Nikko Calleja, Sherrip C. Carreon, Jeannette I. Andrade and Tina Santos*

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METROBRIEFS

Fake NBI agent nabbed inside HQ

A man who posed as an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was recently arrested right inside the bureau's headquarters in Taft Avenue, Manila, after receiving marked money from a security agency official whom he allegedly tried to swindle. Cesar D. Bolton, 50, of Antipolo City, offered to mediate a labor dispute between Sagunto Security Agency Inc. and a former employee, and demanded P80,000 for his services. Before he was arrested inside the NBI office after taking P40,000 from Rufino Maquiling, one of the security agency's owner. Bolton went to Maquiling's office on July 12 and introduced himself as an NBI Special Task Force agent who could help the company in this dispute. A few days after Saturday, who tagged for a meet planned, chatted with the NBI and found out that the man was an impostor. Bolton has been charged in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office for usurpation of authority. **Aaron C. Carvajal**

Body of lady trader found in hotel room

A BRIEFCASE AND A pair of shoes were found inside a hotel room during the temporarily halt in Pasay after the man allegedly killed a 30-year-old woman in the room before he was found dead in the bathroom. Police said the victim, identified only as "Kate," was found in the hotel around 10 p.m. on Thursday, Monday after the hotel's front desk received a call from a guest who said he had not seen the man since the night before. "We have not been able to identify the victim and how the victim died," police said, adding that the foreigner remained unidentified and strange. Police said the hotel's front desk received a call from a guest who said he had not seen the man since the night before. "We have not been able to identify the victim and how the victim died," police said, adding that the foreigner remained unidentified and strange. **Ramon C. Carvajal**

Rob suspect killed on his way to inquest

A MAN arrested for robbing and stabbing a woman was shot dead after he allegedly tried to grab his police escort's gun on their way to inquest proceedings in Bacoor City. The slain suspect was identified as James Bonaldez, 30, of Antipolo City. Supt. Rhodora Bataoga of the Cavite police said the suspect tried to disarm his escort while en route to the city prosecutor's office in Trece Martires City, who denied claims the escort, said the incident happened on Gentillano Street, Barangay Molino 4 at around 10:45 a.m. Bonaldez and his escort Gendales were in the police following his arrest for robbing and wounding a woman last Saturday. Bonaldez was on D. Reyes Street Thursday night. **Jaleel Aurelio**

Globe free call centers for flood victims

GLOBE Telecom, through its corporate social responsibility program Globe Bridging Communities, has increased the number of Libreng Tawag facilities for flood victims. They can be found at Concepcion Integrated School, Concepcion, Marikina; Nangka City Hall; Bagong Silangan Gymnasium; Barangay 3, Bacoor, Cavite; Calumpang, Bulacan; No. 23 Sampaguita Street, Barangay Bonanza, Bahayan Department of Agusan del Norte; St. 20, Bonanza, San Fernando, Pampanga; Bangka Elementary School, Bacoor; Bacoor provincial capitol; Mandaluyong Elementary School. Affected residents can make free fax, international calls, access internet, send text messages to all networks or make free inside international calls at these facilities.

Gimmickry of the lowest kind

ON TARGET
Antonio Calipio

HERE'S a piece of unsolicited advice to President Noy: The next time he pays a visit to flood victims: Please don't bring people who are crying somewhere down in your Liberal Party.

They make your visit to the victims look like a campaign worst. Mr. President.

And to the unsolicited hopefuls who have the gall to show their faces to the flood victims: "Mahiya Ang naman kayo! (You should be ashamed of yourselves!)"

This is no time to campaign there in plenty of time to do that.

There people who died or could be seen for the flood victims sensed one of funeral pulse representatives who used to hang around hospital corridors when I was a police reporter.

Funeral parlor agents would "sympathize" with grieving relatives of a patient who just died, and then offer their services.

I knew one who would even join in the crying even if he was not related to the person who just passed on to never-ever-bliss. Sort of.

This is gimmickry of the lowest kind.

It was alright for the President to bring his sister Kris, an entertainment personality, along with him to the evacuation centers.

Kris' presence brought cheers to people who lost their homes and even loved ones to the floods.

If Noy should have invited his other siblings—Ballsy and Viel—to tag along with him.

The other Aquino nerves, who try to avoid the media if they can, are very virtuous in helping their fellowmen.

The sight of the Aquino siblings would have somehow lessened the feeling of despair and helplessness of the flood victims.

That would have reminded the people of their beloved mom, former President Cory.

* * *

Customs Commissioner Sally Ruiz also with the President during Wednesday's visit to the flood victims.

Is he serving for the Season?

If he is, he should resign or resign.

In fact, he should have resigned months ago when there were reports he was eyeing a seat.

His resignation would put a stop to talk that he's eyeing on at the Bureau of Customs to accumulate money to be used for his reelection campaign.

Does Ruiz to know that some of his subordinates are using his name to collect tara (bribes) from importers and smugglers?

The same subordinates allegedly talked to people who tried to smuggle the illegal pot shipment seized at the Subic Freeport in recently, according to my sources.

The seized smuggled pot shipment was just a tip of the iceberg.

My spies in customs say it was part of a new shipment of 1,500 containers which will be arriving at the ports of Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

Murder trial of Bo's wife begins, concludes in a day

HEFEI, CHINA—The murder trial of Gu Kailai, the wife of deposed political leader Bo Xilai, began here Thursday morning and came to an end seven hours later, with officials saying that the defendant and an accomplice had all but confessed to poisoning a British businessman who had threatened the safety of Gu's son.

In a statement read to foreign journalists, the deputy director of the Hefei Intermediate People's Court placed most of the blame on Gu, 53, saying she gave the Briton, Neil Heywood, a fatal dose of poison as they ate in a hotel room in Chongqing, the metropolis in southwest China that was run by her husband until his downfall last spring.

"The criminal facts are clear; the evidence is solid," the court official, Tang Yigou, said.

A verdict will be announced at a later time.

According to the statement, the killing took place on the morning of Nov. 15 after Gu and Heywood spent time drinking together at a secluded villa on the outskirts of the city. After consuming some tea and alcohol, Heywood began to vomit and asked for a glass of water, at which point Gu "poured poison into his mouth," the court said. The statement said the poison was prepared in advance and given to the family employee, Zhang Xiaojun, 31, who had accompanied Heywood to Chongqing from his home in Beijing.

The court provided no further detail of Heywood's role, nor did it specify who prepared the poison.

PHOTO: Heywood (left) and Gu Kailai

REUTERS

Tang also said Heywood deserved some responsibility for the murder because he had threatened the safety of Gu's son, Bo Guagua, a recent graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He did not elaborate on the nature of the threat.

Analysts believe the intriguing circumstances presented by the court—that Gu feared for the safety of her son—lessened the likelihood that Gu would face the death penalty.

Tang also portrayed Gu as emotionally frail.

He quoted her lawyers as saying Gu's "ability to control her own behavior was weaker than a normal person." The lawyers, he added, said they hoped his leniency given that she had assisted the authorities by revealing details about other people's crimes.

The court's statement raised a host of questions. It did not explain the "economic interests" that had prompted the dispute between Gu and Heywood, 41, an enigmatic figure and longtime friend. It also avoided any mention of her husband, who reportedly knew about his wife's crimes and sought to cover it up.

The Chinese journalists who spoke to people who attended the court said Bo Xilai's name came up only once, in a reference to Zhang as a family employee.

The trial's brevity suggests that Chinese leaders are eager to bring us a close an embarrassing scandal, one that ensnared Chinese-British relations and complicated an upcoming leadership transition scheduled for the fall.

The British Embassy had no immediate comment on the trial. The choice of the venue—in China's eastern Anhui province, hundreds of miles from the scene of the crime—highlighted the extent to which Communist Party leaders were seeking to minimize anything surprising, however unlikely that might arise during the painstakingly orchestrated trial. Legal analysts say distance was not the only factor in choosing the provincial capital of Anhui. The president of the Supreme People's Court, Wang Shengjun, has deep ties to the province, all but guaranteeing a compliant court. President Hu Jintao also comes from Anhui, as does Vice Premier Li Keqiang. Gu was presumed to be the ultimate prize.

"This trial is the outcome of a political struggle," said Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent defense lawyer, referring to powerful enemies of Bo Xilai, a fresh top-and-coming politician who alienated many party luminaries. "Any trial to which the central party pays this much attention had no chance of being fair."

New York Times News Service

Computer virus found in Lebanon targets banks, security firm says

A SECURITY firm said on Thursday that it had discovered what it believed was the fourth state-sponsored computer virus to surface in the Middle East in the past three years, apparently aimed at computers in Lebanon.

The firm, Kaspersky Lab, said that the virus appeared to have been written by the same programmers who created Flame, the data-stealing computer virus that was found to be spying on computers in Iran last May, and Gauss, a virus believed to be Iranian. the virus that disrupted several dozen machines at Iran's oil ministry in 2012.

The latest virus, nicknamed Gauss after a name found in its code, has been detected in 2,500 computers, most in Lebanon, the firm said, for purpose apparent to be to acquire logins for e-mail and instant messaging accounts, social networks, and notably, accounts at certain banks—a business sector apparently found to receive more attention from spy-and-counterspy programs used by profit-seeking cybercriminals.

The researchers said the target banks included several of Lebanon's largest—the Bank of Beirut, Blom Bank, Byblos Bank and Credit Libanais—along with Citibank and the online payment system PayPal.

"We have seen very, very malware target such a specific range of banks," Costin Raiu, Kaspersky's director of global research and analysis, said in an interview. "Generally cybercriminals target as many banks as possible to maximize financial profit, but this is a very focused cyberespionage campaign targeting certain users of online banking systems."

Lebanese experts said that a US or Israeli espionage campaign directed at Lebanon's banking system would seem to be a plausible possibility given Washington's concerns that the country's banks are being used as a financial conduit for the Syrian government and for Hezbollah, the Lebanese military group and political party.

"The United States has had a number of Lebanese banks under the microscope for a while," said Bilal Y. Saab, a Lebanese expert at the Middle East Institute of International Studies, who said the banks "operate much like Swiss banks" in terms of secrecy. "A computer virus could completely undermine that," he said.

Researchers at Kaspersky Lab, based in Moscow, said they found the Gauss virus while analyzing the Flame virus last June. Flame is a reconnaissance tool that can capture images of a computer screen, record e-mail and chat sessions, turn on microphones remotely and monitor keystrokes and network traffic. It can infect an offline computer through a USB stick or a Bluetooth connection.

Kaspersky's researchers said they were confident that Gauss was the work of the same hands as Flame, because the two viruses were written in the same language (known as C3PLUS6PLUS6) on the same platform and shared some code and features. Different people probably wrote Duqu and Stuxnet, the first two state-sponsored viruses to surface in recent years, they said, but all four were probably coordinated by the same nine-person crew.

New York Times News Service

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IN THE MATTER OF: (1) THE AUTOMATIC REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION ON EVERY PETITION FOR REGISTRATION OF PARTY-LIST GROUPS; (2) PETITION FOR GRANTING THE ACCREDITED PARTY-LIST GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE EXISTING AND WHICH HAVE FILED MANIFESTATIONS OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2013 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

ORDER

Pursuant to Resolution No. 9513 promulgated August 21 2012, the undersigned Commissioner, to which Atty.

"To act on pleadings and other filings by the Commission's Offices, for purposes of determining their conformity with the requirements of R.A. No. 7941 and the guidelines in the Ang Bagong Bayani case, and, if non-conformant, control the application of the following:

(a) Party-list groups or organizations which are already registered and accredited and will participate in the May 13, 2013 elections, provided that the Commission on Elections has not declared upon the grant of their respective Petitions for Registration; and

(b) Party-list groups or organizations which are existing and allowed in the list of Registered Party-List Parties per Resolution No. 9411, promulgated as of 27 April 2012, and which have filed their respective Manifestations of Intent to Participate in the Party-List System of Representation in the May 13, 2013 Elections."

The following registered groups or organizations who filed their Manifestations of Intent and Nominees in connection with the May 13, 2013 elections are hereby set for commencement of preliminary hearings on the following scheduled dates with dates to be set hereafter:

	NAME OF PARTY-LIST	DATE / TIME: REQUIREMENT OF SUBMITS	HEARING
1.		12:00 noon	8:00 am
2.		1:30 pm	9:00 am
3.			
4.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
5.		10:00 am	11:00 am
6.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
7.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
8.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
9.		August 10, 2012 (Friday)	August 13, 2012 (Monday)
10.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
11.		11:00 am	8:00 am
12.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
13.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
14.		10:00 am	11:00 am
15.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
16.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
17.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
18.		August 13, 2012 (Monday)	August 14, 2012 (Tuesday)
19.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
20.		11:00 am	8:00 am
21.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
22.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
23.		10:00 am	11:00 am
24.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
25.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
26.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
27.		August 14, 2012 (Tuesday)	August 15, 2012 (Wednesday)
28.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
29.		11:00 am	8:00 am
30.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
31.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
32.		10:00 am	11:00 am
33.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
34.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
35.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
36.		August 15, 2012 (Wednesday)	August 16, 2012 (Thursday)
37.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
38.		11:00 am	8:00 am
39.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
40.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
41.		10:00 am	11:00 am
42.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
43.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
44.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
45.		August 16, 2012 (Thursday)	August 17, 2012 (Friday)
46.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
47.		11:00 am	8:00 am
48.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
49.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
50.		10:00 am	11:00 am
51.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
52.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
53.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
54.		August 17, 2012 (Friday)	August 20, 2012 (Monday)
55.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
56.		11:00 am	8:00 am
57.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
58.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
59.		10:00 am	11:00 am
60.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
61.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
62.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
63.		August 20, 2012 (Monday)	August 21, 2012 (Tuesday)
64.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
65.		11:00 am	8:00 am
66.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
67.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
68.		10:00 am	11:00 am
69.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
70.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
71.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
72.		August 21, 2012 (Tuesday)	August 22, 2012 (Wednesday)
73.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
74.		11:00 am	8:00 am
75.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
76.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
77.		10:00 am	11:00 am
78.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
79.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
80.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
81.		August 22, 2012 (Wednesday)	August 23, 2012 (Thursday)
82.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
83.		11:00 am	8:00 am
84.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
85.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
86.		10:00 am	11:00 am
87.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
88.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
89.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
90.		August 23, 2012 (Thursday)	August 24, 2012 (Friday)
91.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
92.		11:00 am	8:00 am
93.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
94.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
95.		10:00 am	11:00 am
96.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
97.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
98.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
99.		August 24, 2012 (Friday)	August 27, 2012 (Monday)
100.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
101.		11:00 am	8:00 am
102.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
103.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
104.		10:00 am	11:00 am
105.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
106.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
107.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
108.		August 27, 2012 (Monday)	August 28, 2012 (Tuesday)
109.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
110.		11:00 am	8:00 am
111.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
112.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
113.		10:00 am	11:00 am
114.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
115.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
116.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
117.		August 28, 2012 (Tuesday)	August 29, 2012 (Wednesday)
118.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
119.		11:00 am	8:00 am
120.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
121.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
122.		10:00 am	11:00 am
123.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
124.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
125.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
126.		August 29, 2012 (Wednesday)	August 30, 2012 (Thursday)
127.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
128.		11:00 am	8:00 am
129.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
130.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
131.		10:00 am	11:00 am
132.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
133.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
134.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
135.		August 30, 2012 (Thursday)	August 31, 2012 (Friday)
136.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
137.		11:00 am	8:00 am
138.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
139.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
140.		10:00 am	11:00 am
141.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
142.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
143.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
144.		August 31, 2012 (Friday)	September 03, 2012 (Monday)
145.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
146.		11:00 am	8:00 am
147.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
148.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
149.		10:00 am	11:00 am
150.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
151.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
152.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
153.		September 3, 2012 (Monday)	September 04, 2012 (Tuesday)
154.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
155.		11:00 am	8:00 am
156.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
157.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
158.		10:00 am	11:00 am
159.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
160.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
161.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
162.		September 4, 2012 (Tuesday)	September 05, 2012 (Wednesday)
163.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
164.		11:00 am	8:00 am
165.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
166.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
167.		10:00 am	11:00 am
168.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
169.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
170.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
171.		September 5, 2012 (Wednesday)	September 06, 2012 (Thursday)
172.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
173.		11:00 am	8:00 am
174.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
175.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
176.		10:00 am	11:00 am
177.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
178.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
179.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
180.		September 6, 2012 (Thursday)	September 07, 2012 (Friday)
181.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
182.		11:00 am	8:00 am
183.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
184.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
185.		10:00 am	11:00 am
186.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
187.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
188.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
189.		September 7, 2012 (Friday)	September 10, 2012 (Monday)
190.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
191.		11:00 am	8:00 am
192.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
193.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
194.		10:00 am	11:00 am
195.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
196.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
197.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
198.		September 10, 2012 (Monday)	September 11, 2012 (Tuesday)
199.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
200.		11:00 am	8:00 am
201.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
202.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
203.		10:00 am	11:00 am
204.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
205.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
206.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
207.		September 11, 2012 (Tuesday)	September 12, 2012 (Wednesday)
208.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
209.		11:00 am	8:00 am
210.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
211.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
212.		10:00 am	11:00 am
213.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
214.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
215.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
216.		September 12, 2012 (Wednesday)	September 13, 2012 (Thursday)
217.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
218.		11:00 am	8:00 am
219.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
220.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
221.		10:00 am	11:00 am
222.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
223.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
224.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
225.		September 13, 2012 (Thursday)	September 14, 2012 (Friday)
226.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
227.		11:00 am	8:00 am
228.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
229.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
230.		10:00 am	11:00 am
231.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
232.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
233.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
234.		September 14, 2012 (Friday)	September 17, 2012 (Monday)
235.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
236.		11:00 am	8:00 am
237.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
238.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
239.		10:00 am	11:00 am
240.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
241.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
242.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
243.		September 17, 2012 (Monday)	September 18, 2012 (Tuesday)
244.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
245.		11:00 am	8:00 am
246.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
247.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
248.		10:00 am	11:00 am
249.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
250.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
251.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
252.		September 18, 2012 (Tuesday)	September 19, 2012 (Wednesday)
253.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
254.		11:00 am	8:00 am
255.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
256.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
257.		10:00 am	11:00 am
258.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
259.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
260.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
261.		September 19, 2012 (Wednesday)	September 20, 2012 (Thursday)
262.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
263.		11:00 am	8:00 am
264.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
265.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
266.		10:00 am	11:00 am
267.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
268.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
269.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
270.		September 20, 2012 (Thursday)	September 21, 2012 (Friday)
271.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
272.		11:00 am	8:00 am
273.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
274.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
275.		10:00 am	11:00 am
276.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
277.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
278.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
279.		September 21, 2012 (Friday)	September 24, 2012 (Monday)
280.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
281.		11:00 am	8:00 am
282.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
283.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
284.		10:00 am	11:00 am
285.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
286.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
287.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
288.		September 24, 2012 (Monday)	September 25, 2012 (Tuesday)
289.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
290.		11:00 am	8:00 am
291.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
292.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
293.		10:00 am	11:00 am
294.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
295.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
296.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
297.		September 25, 2012 (Tuesday)	September 26, 2012 (Wednesday)
298.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
299.		11:00 am	8:00 am
300.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
301.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
302.		10:00 am	11:00 am
303.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
304.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
305.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
306.		September 26, 2012 (Wednesday)	September 27, 2012 (Thursday)
307.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
308.		11:00 am	8:00 am
309.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
310.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
311.		10:00 am	11:00 am
312.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
313.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
314.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
315.		September 27, 2012 (Thursday)	September 28, 2012 (Friday)
316.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
317.		11:00 am	8:00 am
318.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
319.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
320.		10:00 am	11:00 am
321.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
322.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
323.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
324.		September 28, 2012 (Friday)	October 01, 2012 (Monday)
325.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
326.		11:00 am	8:00 am
327.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
328.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
329.		10:00 am	11:00 am
330.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
331.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
332.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
333.		October 1, 2012 (Monday)	October 02, 2012 (Tuesday)
334.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
335.		11:00 am	8:00 am
336.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
337.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
338.		10:00 am	11:00 am
339.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
340.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
341.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
342.		October 2, 2012 (Tuesday)	October 03, 2012 (Wednesday)
343.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
344.		11:00 am	8:00 am
345.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
346.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
347.		10:00 am	11:00 am
348.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
349.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
350.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
351.		October 3, 2012 (Wednesday)	October 04, 2012 (Thursday)
352.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
353.		11:00 am	8:00 am
354.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
355.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
356.		10:00 am	11:00 am
357.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
358.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
359.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
360.		October 4, 2012 (Thursday)	October 05, 2012 (Friday)
361.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
362.		11:00 am	8:00 am
363.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
364.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
365.		10:00 am	11:00 am
366.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
367.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
368.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
369.		October 5, 2012 (Friday)	October 08, 2012 (Monday)
370.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
371.		11:00 am	8:00 am
372.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
373.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
374.		10:00 am	11:00 am
375.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
376.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
377.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
378.		October 8, 2012 (Monday)	October 09, 2012 (Tuesday)
379.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
380.		11:00 am	8:00 am
381.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
382.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
383.		10:00 am	11:00 am
384.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
385.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
386.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
387.		October 9, 2012 (Tuesday)	October 10, 2012 (Wednesday)
388.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
389.		11:00 am	8:00 am
390.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
391.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
392.		10:00 am	11:00 am
393.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
394.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
395.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
396.		October 10, 2012 (Wednesday)	October 11, 2012 (Thursday)
397.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
398.		11:00 am	8:00 am
399.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
400.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
401.		10:00 am	11:00 am
402.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
403.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
404.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
405.		October 11, 2012 (Thursday)	October 12, 2012 (Friday)
406.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
407.		11:00 am	8:00 am
408.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
409.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
410.		10:00 am	11:00 am
411.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
412.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
413.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
414.		October 12, 2012 (Friday)	October 15, 2012 (Monday)
415.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
416.		11:00 am	8:00 am
417.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
418.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
419.		10:00 am	11:00 am
420.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
421.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
422.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
423.		October 15, 2012 (Monday)	October 16, 2012 (Tuesday)
424.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
425.		11:00 am	8:00 am
426.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
427.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
428.		10:00 am	11:00 am
429.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
430.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
431.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
432.		October 16, 2012 (Tuesday)	October 17, 2012 (Wednesday)
433.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
434.		11:00 am	8:00 am
435.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
436.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
437.		10:00 am	11:00 am
438.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
439.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
440.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
441.		October 17, 2012 (Wednesday)	October 18, 2012 (Thursday)
442.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
443.		11:00 am	8:00 am
444.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
445.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
446.		10:00 am	11:00 am
447.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
448.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
449.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
450.		October 18, 2012 (Thursday)	October 19, 2012 (Friday)
451.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
452.		11:00 am	8:00 am
453.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
454.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
455.		10:00 am	11:00 am
456.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
457.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
458.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
459.		October 19, 2012 (Friday)	October 22, 2012 (Monday)
460.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
461.		11:00 am	8:00 am
462.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
463.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
464.		10:00 am	11:00 am
465.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
466.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
467.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
468.		October 22, 2012 (Monday)	October 23, 2012 (Tuesday)
469.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
470.		11:00 am	8:00 am
471.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
472.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
473.		10:00 am	11:00 am
474.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
475.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
476.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
477.		October 23, 2012 (Tuesday)	October 24, 2012 (Wednesday)
478.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
479.		11:00 am	8:00 am
480.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
481.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
482.		10:00 am	11:00 am
483.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
484.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
485.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
486.		October 24, 2012 (Wednesday)	October 25, 2012 (Thursday)
487.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
488.		11:00 am	8:00 am
489.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
490.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
491.		10:00 am	11:00 am
492.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
493.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
494.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
495.		October 25, 2012 (Thursday)	October 26, 2012 (Friday)
496.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
497.		11:00 am	8:00 am
498.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
499.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
500.		10:00 am	11:00 am
501.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
502.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
503.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
504.		October 26, 2012 (Friday)	October 29, 2012 (Monday)
505.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
506.		11:00 am	8:00 am
507.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
508.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
509.		10:00 am	11:00 am
510.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
511.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
512.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
513.		October 29, 2012 (Monday)	October 30, 2012 (Tuesday)
514.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
515.		11:00 am	8:00 am
516.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
517.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
518.		10:00 am	11:00 am
519.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
520.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
521.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
522.		October 30, 2012 (Tuesday)	October 31, 2012 (Wednesday)
523.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
524.		11:00 am	8:00 am
525.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
526.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
527.		10:00 am	11:00 am
528.		11:00 am	12:00 nn
529.		2:00 pm	1:00 pm
530.		3:00 pm	2:00 pm
531.		October 31, 2012 (Wednesday)	November 01, 2012 (Thursday)
532.		10:00 am	3:00 pm
533.		11:00 am	8:00 am
534.		2:00 pm	9:00 am
535.		3:00 pm	10:00 am
536.		10:00 am	11:00 am
537.	

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

As battles rage in Syria, UN says no one will win

ALEPPO, Syria—Syrian forces have pushed rebels back from a strategic district of Aleppo, but skirmishes continued in the city and the United Nations said the conflict engulfing Syria would have no winner.

Diplomats told Reuters that veteran Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi could be named next week to replace the UN-Arab League Syria envoy Kofi Annan, who resigned in frustration at the international deadlock on how to end the violence.

But they warned there could be last-minute changes if a key government had reservations or the candidate had second thoughts.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, engaged in an all-consuming fight with his mostly Sunni opponents, appointed a Sunni as his new prime minister on Thursday after his predecessor fled on Monday in the highest-level defection so far in the uprising that began 17 months ago.

Wael al-Halki, from the southern province of Deraa where the revolt began, replaces Riyad Hijab, who had spent only two months in the job before making a dramatic escape across the border to Jordan.

Assad's authority was already shaken by the assassination last month of four of his top security officials and by rebel gains in Damascus, Aleppo and swathes of rural Syria.

But he has persevered with a crackdown on opponents seeking to end half a century of Baathist rule and topple a system dominated by members of the president's minority Alawite sect.

He has formed his fierce Army counter-offensive on Syria's two main cities, reasserting control over much of the capital, Damascus before taking the fight to the northern commercial hub.

Rebels fighting in the Aleppo district of Salaheddine, a southern gateway to the city, said they had been forced to fall back from frontline positions on Thursday by a fierce bombardment which had reduced

A SYRIAN soldier, who has defected to join the Free Syrian Army, holds up his rifle and waves a Syrian independence flag in Damascus on Jan. 27. REUTERS

buildings to rubble.

"There have been some misbehaviors of free Syrian Army fighters from Salaheddine," rebel commander Abu Ali said. Others said the units from lines in the area, which had been held by rebels for more than a week, were now disunited.

The center of the district, near Salaheddine mosque, was abandoned when Reuters journalists visited on Thursday. The only sound was the constant echo of artillery shelling. There were no rebels, no security forces, and only a few residents daring to emerge to pick up belongings—while evading Army snipers.

One rebel field commander, who did not want to be named, said 1200 people had been killed in Salaheddine in the last three days, mostly by shelling and air attacks.

Rebels said sporadic clashes continued in the district and that while the government had at least 80 tanks stationed in various parts of Aleppo, it appeared reluctant to engage to clear combat, preferring to use heli-copters and fighter jets.

Sheikh Yasrib, commander of the Nur al-Din Zinky brigade based on Dhi street in Salaheddine, said the Army's formidable superiority was offset by apparently faltering morale.

"At the 18th corner here [the security base with the Army and anti-Assa Shiite militia under on their radios—we hear their commanders give orders to soldiers to advance and they keep saying them to, but the soldiers don't and don't advance.

"The commanders have even taken away the soldiers' mobile phones so that we don't have a chance to call them and create more defections," he said.

As the battle for Aleppo raged, Iran, Assad's closest foreign backer, called for "serious and inclusive" negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition.

Assad has repeatedly said he is ready for dialogue, but he has vowed to crush the armed rebels he says are terrorists. His opponents say he must step aside before any talks, arguing negotiations would be meaningless while the bloodshed persists.

Iran made the call after gathering diplomats from like-minded states in Tehran for talks on the conflict not attended by Western and more Middle Eastern states, which have demanded Assad end his family's 40-year rule.

The violence has already shown elements of a proxy war between Sunni and Shiite Islam.

"There will be no winner in Syria," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement read by a UN representative to the conference in Tehran.

"Every war fans the grim possibility of long-term civil war destroying Syria's rich tapestry of interwoven communities."

Already stretched by rebel activity in many parts of the country, the military despite its advantage in tanks, aeroplanes and helicopters, has had to cede ground elsewhere as it struggles for control of Aleppo. Reuters

JAMES HOLMES, shown here at a court hearing, is suspected of opening down 12 people at a screening of the new Batman movie last month. He faces two counts of first degree murder for each person killed in the July 20 massacre in Aurora, Colorado. He faces 142 counts for killing and one count for killing through "depraved indifference" to life.

Batman movie shooting suspect 'mentally ill,' says defense lawyer

CENTENNIAL, Colorado—The man suspected of gunning down 12 people at a screening of the new Batman movie last month is mentally ill, his defense lawyer said on Thursday seeking more time to assess his health.

James Holmes faces two counts of first degree murder for each person killed in the July 20 massacre in Aurora, Colorado, and for each victim's deliberate killing and one count for killing through "depraved indifference" to life.

But at a court hearing in Centennial, near Denver, defense attorney Dan King chastised prosecutors for not turning over all the evidence, photos from the crime scene and other evidence.

"We cannot begin to assess Mr. Holmes's mental illness until we have all of that information," said King, who entered in his client's mental illness two other times.

Holmes, 24, still recently a neuroscience student, allegedly burst into a midnight viewing of "The Dark Knight Rises" and opened fire.

Six of the 58 people who were wounded in the attack remain hospitalized and four are in a critical condition, leaving open the possibility that the first-degree murder counts could yet grow longer.

At Thursday's hearing attorneys discussed the merits of reviving the judge's order barring public access to court records, following media requests.

Prosecutors argued that sealing the court documents protects the integrity of the ongoing investigation—which so far has generated 2,627 pages of evidence—and defense lawyer King said continuing to suppress access to the records protects his client's right to a fair trial, but no decision was made.

Judicial District Court Chief Judge William Sylvester did not indicate when he will rule on the media request but he set the next scheduled court hearing for Aug. 16.

That hearing will discuss whether a package the former graduate student allegedly sent to a University of Colorado psychiatrist should be considered protected communication under doctor-patient confidentiality privilege.

Authorities say Holmes burst into the cinema and claimed he was "The Joker"—Batman's sworn enemy in the comic-book series that inspired director Christopher Nolan's film trilogy—before opening fire.

Prosecutors have said it will be several weeks before a decision is made on whether or not to seek the death penalty for Holmes. Only one person has been executed in Colorado since 1976. AFP

NOW SHOWING

Obama drawing huge crowds, but not like in '08 campaign

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—About 9,200 people of all ages and colors spread across Colorado College on Thursday, the day in this conservative city for a rally with President Barack Obama. Hours earlier, 3,500 supporters did the same in smaller Pueblo, Colorado.

Together with two events on Wednesday in Denver and Grand Junction, Colorado, an estimated 16,100 people in this battleground state turned out over the past two days to cheer Obama.

Good crowds, especially compared with the hundreds that typically turn out to see Mitt Romney the four years ago, Obama often was drawing five-digit throngs, filling arenas' scoreboard seats and overflow rooms and regularly inspiring deadpan orders from the local fire constable.

Which raises a couple of questions: Where are the crowds now? And what does it mean for the results in November?

"We have plenty of time for big rallies," a campaign spokesperson, Jen Psaki, said because the rallies on Thursday "Our focus right now is on sticking our supporters and winning over undecided voters and the smaller and medium-size events are the best venue to accomplish that because the president can closely engage with the crowd."

Big rallies are expensive, especially given the logistical and security challenges for a president as opposed to a mere GE senator. And Obama campaign operatives, both at the Chicago headquarters and in swing states where Obama recently has stumped, say the campaign intentionally limits crowds by restricting tickets. The reason is to allow the president to better connect with supporters, aides say.

Petra Quintana, an employee at the Mobday Inn Express in Pueblo, said on Thursday that she had gone earlier in the week to the state fairgrounds to get a ticket, but the ticket office was closed, to allow more gone.

Similarly, at Obama's appearance in Denver on Wednesday, two local campaign volunteers, Inez Bedman and Tesie Mysiewicz, said they could get only one ticket for themselves, though they would have liked more for family and friends.

Also, the campaign is scheduling stops in smaller cities and towns like Pueblo, and in conservative strongholds like Grand Junction and, last week, in Mansfield, Ohio, where 1,500 supporters crowded a small park. In

PRESIDENT Barack Obama speaks at a campaign event at Colorado College on Aug. 9 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. AP

keeping with a campaign mantra—"have to stoke enthusiasm"—the goal is to fire up supporters, enlist new grass-roots volunteers and finally convert some among the dwindling pool of undecided voters.

Advisers dismiss questions about whether Obama can muster the masses of the 2008 campaign, though his first official rallies in early May did suggest early troubles.

While 18,200 filled an arena at Ohio State University, about 6,000 seats remained empty, and in Virginia the president filled an 8,000-seat campus center but had no need for overflow rooms.

Romney operatives latched those scenes as evidence of Obama's "enthusiasm gap." Yet Romney rarely draws anything close to the crowds that Obama does, and Democratic operatives have had their ears has sending out pictures of empty seats over e-mail and Twitter. A favorite was in February, when Romney was with Detroit business leaders surrounded by the empty seats of enormous Ford Field.

A Romney spokesperson, Andrea Saul, provided photos of three packed events: 5,000 at a Memorial Day weekend rally in Iron Otego, 2,300 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, in March, and 4,200 in Denver in mid-February.

More typical appearances draw 300-500 people. An event in Ohio three weeks ago attracted about 400, with about 100 more to see over three rooms.

Romney crowds are overwhelmingly white compared with the more diverse Obama audiences, and older voters generally outnumber younger supporters. New York Times News Service

IN THIS ISSUE

■ San Miguel gets SEC nod for P80-B share offering /B2
■ May FDI inflows slowed to a trickle /B3

Philippine Daily Inquirer

BUSI

Export growth slump

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 10, 2012
41.885

STOCK MARKET
Aug. 10, 2012
6.74

Stocks end slightly higher

MOST local stocks closed with small gains yesterday, overcoming a 4-straight morning losses, as weak economic data in China dampened sentiment and led to profit-taking.

The main index of Philippine Stock Exchange closed 6.74 points or 0.13 percent higher at 5,053.30, aided by selective buying. It was down 21 points in morning trade but turned up in the afternoon as investors sought bargains after a sharp fall on Thursday.

The rebound was supported by the gains of the banks and holding firm and services companies. However, the gains were capped by the declines of the mining and metallurgical and property counters.

Value turnover amounted to P4.1 billion, despite the overall index gain. The broader market was lower. Five were in the advancers versus 93 decliners.

(BTM, BACK PAGE)

Bangko Sent

By Ana C. Roa

PHILIPPINE exports grew [illegible] June after a double-digit [illegible]

The National Statistics Office (NSO) yesterday reported that exports for the month reached $4.32 billion, with overseas shipments dipping 14.6 percent to $1.89 billion.

Total exports in the first half of 2012 grew 7.7 percent to $26.79 billion from $24.86 billion in the same period last year.

Shipments to Japan, the country's top export market in June,

Country clu

By Howard M. Dominguez

ORGANIZATIONS that were established for recreation and other non-profit purposes such as country clubs must pay income tax and value-added tax (VAT), according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

National Revenue Commissioner Kim S. Henares has issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No.

Nikko Dizon | Carmela R. Hermoso

NESS

■ PH more resilient than other countries, says gov't /B7
■ ICTSI bags deal to run major Nigeria terminal /B7

ped to 4.2% in June

cral counting on domestic demand

ly by only 4.2 percent in ebound in May.

demand 24.7 percent after expecting an annual gain of 10.3 percent the previous month due to downward adjustment in purchas es.

Exports to East Asia, the top export destination by economic bloc, fell 5.4 percent from a year earlier, after a 20.6-percent annual climb in May and exports to Asean more ambitious saw a 9.9-percent drop in June. Other top buyers of Philippine products in June were the United States with $639.21 million and China with $516.65 million.

"It's back to reality. The initial euphoria brought by a 10.7-percent increase in exports [in May] has been dashed back to more realistic level in June," said former budget secretary Benjamin Diokno, who now teaches at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

Diokno said the lackluster performance of exports could be offset by increased manufacturing for the domestic market.

"However, this is easier said than done given the continuing appreciation of the peso. It is cheaper to import than manufacture goods for the domestic market. At the same time, it is more difficult to export as the peso appreciates in relative," Diokno said.

Cid Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific said that electronics sector would not fully recover in the second half because of continuing lethargy in major export markets but said that the 10 percent growth target for exports could still be achieved if not crack

[illegible] B6

ubs subject to VAT, other taxes

35-2012 to clarify the tax treatment on such debt following complaints from LGU officials.

Briones said that the Tax Code of 1997 or Presidential Decree No. 1158 provided that clubs organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation or other nonprofit purposes were exempt from the income tax.

However, this provision was dropped and was no longer available in the prevailing Tax Code of 1997 or Republic Act No. 8424.

"Despite this, several BIR rulings were issued declaring that recreational clubs are exempt from income tax and VAT," she said.

The BIR chief was referring to three BIR Rulings that favored Club Punta Fuego Inc. Batangas (ruling no. 260-02), Laguna Country Club Corp. (ruling no. 220-03) and Calamba Resort Club Inc. (2009).

However, she said that under the current Tax Code, as amended, the income of recreational clubs from whatever source—including but not limited to membership fees, assessment dues, rental incomes and service fees—were subject to income tax.

Citing a legal doctrine, she said that the revocation of recreational

CONTINUED B2

San Miguel gets SEC nod for ₱80-B share offering

Sale starts Monday; listing seen on Sept. 28

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved a landmark preferred shares offering by conglomerate San Miguel Corp. worth up to P80 billion, paving the way for the start of the issuance on Monday.

Based on documents from the SEC, as much as 1.07 billion new series of preferred shares will be offered at an issue price of P75 each.

The series 2 preferred shares will be peso-denominated, perpetual, cumulative, nonparticipative and nonvoting and may be issued in sub-series or tranches. SMC has the option to redeem the preferred shares by the fifth, seventh or 10th year or otherwise pay a higher dividend rate.

The dividend rate annually on the all-series (2-A) redeemable in five years is 7.5 percent and fixed on subseries (2-B) redeemable on the 7th year is 8.5 percent. The sub-series (2-C) redeemable in 10 years will be paid a dividend rate of 9 percent a year, the SEC document showed.

Mandated as bookrunners for the offering were HSBC, Union Bank, BDO Capital, China Bank, RCBC Capital, First Metro Investment Corp., BPI Bank, Philippine Commercial Capital Inc., Standard Chartered Bank, SB Capital and United Coconut Planters Bank.

The base offer will comprise 960 million shares with an option to upsize by 107 million shares.

The shares will be issued upon approval by the SEC of the increase in SMC's authorized capital stock to P90 billion from P22.5 billion. The preferred shares will be listed and traded on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

As earlier reported, bulk of the proceeds would be used to redeem all of SMC's outstanding P75.6 billion worth of series 1 preferred shares while the remainder would be for general corporate purposes, including partial repayment of short-term debt.

The new series of preferred shares, when redeemed, will not be considered retired and may be re-issued by SMC at a price to be determined by the board.

The offer period is expected to be completed by Sept. 14 and the company is targeting to list the preferred shares on Sept. 28, subject to approval by the PSE.

"The private banks [are] competing to get [a] relatively more than 30-bln deposit accounts are getting those remittay of the BSP and so there's no other alternative investment for investors and those dependent on regular income from time deposits," one of the bookrunners said.

Drillers settle dispute on farm-in deal

By Amy R. Remo

FOUR companies holding interests in Service Contract 51 off the Visayas basin have signed an agreement with shareholder firm Steaua Gold and Gas Ltd. to settle a dispute concerning a previous farm-in contract.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., Petroleum Resources Corp. and Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. said the settlement agreement would grant Steaua Oil the right to acquire a 90-percent participating interest in the South Block of SC 51.

SC 51 covers two blocks (north and south), one of which runs along northwest Leyte Peninsula, while the other is along Cebu Strait.

It was not disclosed how much Oil's farm-in in the South Block of SC 51 would affect the interests held by the three firms and its other partner, NorAsian Energy Ltd., the local unit of Otto Energy Ltd.

Trans-Asia Oil has a 6.67-percent participating interest in the nilode PSC 51 license, Petroenergy has 4.44 percent stake, Alcorn Gold has 4.32 percent interest, and operator Otto Energy with 40 percent. Trans Oil held five remaining 40 percent.

Ayala net profit up 23% to ₱6.1B

CONSOLIDATED: Ayala Corp. boosted its first-semester net profit by 23 percent year-on-year to P6.1 billion as strong earnings by its property, banking and water units offset the slight decline in contribution from its telecom unit.

Excluding nonrecurring items, core net income for the first six months went up 31 percent to P6.5 billion. The acquisition and consolidation of Globe Telecom as a result of its network modernization program and the revaluation gains realized at AG Holdings in the first half of 2011 made up the core of these.

The higher profit was driven by the strong earnings from Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe. What ultimately Globe Telecom can weigh down on by accelerated depreciation.

On the other hand, Ayala's bottom process outperforming and strong loan growth continued, and margin improvement in the first half, reducing losses from this segment.

Equity earnings at core and nonnon businesses reached P7.7 billion in the first semester, 24 percent higher than the level achieved in the same period last year.

"We are encouraged to see the strong topline in our core businesses sustained through the first half of this year. The performance reflects the robust domestic demand and the fundamental strength of the economy. We remain committed to our growth strategies to continue to tap the growing demand as we expand to new market segments and develop a more premium presence across the country," Ayala president and chief operating officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala said in a statement.

In BPO, Ayala's share in revenues reached P4.66 billion, up 9 percent year-on-year while its share in cash flow or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and depreciation reached P1.51 billion, up 20 percent. Ayala's ability to improved profitability at Bevon and Affiliate Express, Doris C. Dumlao

Export growth slumped to 4.2% in June

From page B1

trend does would continue their good performance.

The central bank sought to play down the risks to the broader economy saying domestic demand should offset external weakness.

Analysts warn of the slow that the drop in exports, dominated by electronics and semiconductors, increased the chances of a rate cut as the central bank tries to shield the economy from slower global growth.

The Aquino administration is targeting a higher growth of 5 to 6 percent this year from 3.9 percent in 2011, said Ramon Secretary Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the goal appears "quite challenging and ambitious" despite the export sector's lackluster performance. "Growth will depend more on domestic demand to sustain momentum."

Domestic demand "would be underpinned by benign inflation and robust remittances from Filipinos overseas and that should support the economy amid the global economic turmoil, he said.

The Philippine economy expanded at a slower-than-expected 11.4 percent annual pace in the first quarter, helped in part by a rebound in exports during the period, but the latest data suggested it was losing some of the momentum.

With a report from Reuters

Country clubs subject to VAT, other taxes

From page B1

clubs from the list of income tax-exempt entities must be intentioned—the new law seemed to stop such clubs of the exemption.

But the SSC Honors said Section 109 of the current Tax Code clearly mentioned that even a non-stock, non-profit organization or government entity can collect in the law.

"The conclusions were affirmed by the Supreme Court in a decision issued in 2000," she said, citing a case brought by a previous BIR commissioner against The Court of Appeals and Commercial Management and Service Corp.

Clearly, the gross receipts of country clubs, including but not limited to membership fees, membership dues, considerations and service fees are subject to VAT," Honors said.

Make courts' performance public, coalition for judicial reforms urges

Reforms were pushed the performance of judges and justices nationwide. Citizens' Committee on Judicial Accountability (CCJA) called for tools to investigate judges and justices suspected of corruption or anti-working ability.

These are among the reforms in the judiciary demanded by the recently formed coalition of business organizations and civil society groups are convening for through a newly formed coalition called the Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI).

The JRI is made up of the Confederation of Philippine Industry, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Namfrel Law School Alumni Association and Ateneo Professional Schools Alumni Association, Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), Movement for Philippine Legal Affairs and Reform (MAPLA), American Chamber of Commerce, Makati Club of Makati and Executive Chief Justice. Other organizations are expected to join the formal registration.

The group cited the Global Competitiveness Report released by the World Economic Forum in 2011 that showed the Philippines ranking 139th among 142 countries in terms of the overall competitiveness of its judiciary.

In a statement yesterday, the JRI acknowledged that the performance of the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Renato Corona has been "exemplary" and that the Court has "demonstrated its commitment to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary."

But the JRI stressed that there is still room for improvement in the judiciary and that the Court "cannot do it alone."

"The JRI is committed to form working groups that will study and propose reforms in the judiciary. It will also organize symposia and information campaigns, work with law schools, and other sectors to improve the judiciary," the JRI said.

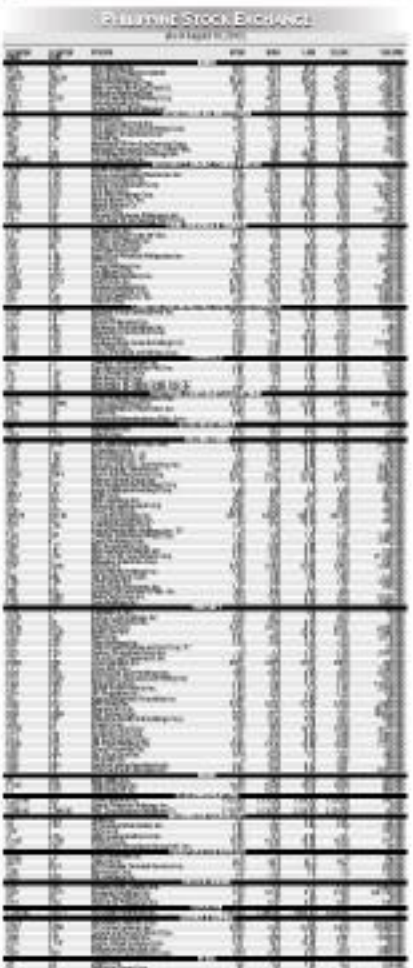
Stocks

From page B1

while 49 stocks were unchanged.

The main index was up 0.2 percent by conglomerate Ayala Corp. (+1.139 percent), SM Investments (+1.3 percent) and Metro Pacific Investments (+1.141 percent). Globe Telecom and Petron Corp also contributed to the index gain.

On the other hand, the day's decline was dampened by the decline of Philippine Long Distance Telephone (-2.72 percent) and ABS (-1.129 percent). BDO, PLDT, Globe, SM, Del Monte and SLC also closed lower, Doris C. Dumlao



May FDI inflows slowed to a trickle

Inflation seen to end BSP's rate cut streak

By Doris C. Dumlao

BSTTIST leaders gave HSBC says the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas keeping its key interest rates on hold at its September monetary policy setting meeting, given the recent increase in food prices and supply disruptions from the Hanal that swept across the Mainland Central Region and some parts of Luzon.

It is consistently raised on drug. It also the latest inflation report came out, HSBC economists Trade Nguyen said while headline inflation still remained at the bottom of the inflation-targeting BSP's 3-5 percent target, it could likely be on the way up especially in the next couple of months due to short-term supply shocks and strong domestic demand."

Additionally, oil prices have edged upon of late, increasing costs of the buffet by on high domestic demand that headline inflation has escaped. This means that while the BSP would like to reduce the costs of accelerations, it will likely keep rates on hold as monetary price conditions," the economist said.

It was reported earlier this week that the country's headline inflation rate had risen to 3.1 percent year-on-year in July. Taking out non-food items only, core inflation was by 4.1 percent year-on-year in July from 3.7 percent in June.

HSBC also took into account the potential impact of the recent floods were since Tropical Storm Gaemi of 2000. Nguyen said the actual damage was still unknown but "likely to be substantial" as more than 1.1 million people have been affected.

"Farming crop damage aside, supply disruptions would likely cause an uptick in food prices. This, coupled with that of crude oil recently, will further fuel inflationary pressures. But even before the tragedy, core inflation has been elevated," Nguyen said.

Nguyen noted that the country's growth momentum eased during this year, backed by robust fiscal and private spending as well as resilient exports. "Despite this, headline inflation managed to rise at the bottom of, if not below, the BSP's target thanks to sharp declines in transportation cost and abundant food supply. This means that should food or transportation costs reverse, headline inflation would deviate from its current benign state," she said.

Both food and transportation costs are, thus, likely to rise in the next couple of months due to both short-term supply shocks as well as the recent rise of oil prices, Nguyen said.

"This means that even if the BSP would like to lower rates further to stimulate investment even it is unlikely to do so anytime soon. Therefore, both headline and core is likely to increase in the next couple of months. While the effects of the floods are ephemeral, pent-up demand remains a concern," she said.

As such, HSBC estimated to call of a hold at the BSP's next meeting on Sept. 13. In its last policy rate setting in June-July, the BSP slashed its key policy rates by 25 basis points, bringing its overnight borrowing rate to a new record low of 2.75 percent.

BSP says US, euro woes affecting sentiment

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE NET inflow of foreign direct investments in the Philippines slumped in May with uncertainty of the debt-burdening in euro-global and investor sentiment from the unresolved crisis in Europe.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that net FDI inflow amounted to only $7 million in May, falling by 96 percent from $195 million in the same month last year.

Gross FDI inflow for the month reached $130 million, while outflows hit $6 million.

"Investor sentiment remained subdued on the back of continued concern over the development in some advanced economies, predominantly the unyielding sovereign debt and banking crisis in the euro area," the BSP said in a statement.

For the first five months of the year, nonetheless, net inflow of FDIs managed to keep a growing trend. It amounted to $944 million, up by about 13 percent from $836 million in the same period last year.

Gross outflows for the five-month period amounted to $949 million, while outflows stood at $5.05 million.

The biggest investor of FDIs in the first five months were the United States, Australia, Netherlands, Japan and the United Kingdom, the central bank said.

Investments were mostly in the sectors of manufacturing, real estate, wholesale and retail trade, and financial and insurance, it added.

The decline in net FDI inflows in May was despite the Philippines' better-than-expected growth rate in the first quarter of 6.4 percent, which was the second-fastest in Asia, following China's 8.1 percent.

Although investor sentiment was relatively weak, affecting FDI outflows to emerging markets in general, the Philippines remained a biggest so far in attracting foreign direct investments in the country.

While gross FDIs in the Philippines so far this year has yet to reach the billion-dollar mark, those to Indonesia already reached over $5 billion in the first quarter alone.

Economists said that October unavoidable, external here to that weigh down on the ability of the Philippines to attract foreign investments, domestic problems are likewise to blame. They said it takes more than a robust economic growth rate to attract foreign direct investors.

They noted the Philippines has to develop its infrastructure, address cost of power, and to resolve the tedious process of setting up a business in the country to woo more foreign investments.

Government officials have claimed, however, that problems cited as affecting the country's business climate are already being addressed. They said public infrastructure is a key priority under the Aquino administration.

Consumer spending pushed bank loans up in 1st quarter

By Michelle V. Ramos

BOOMING credit, or the outstanding loans from banks and other lending institutions in the country, posted a double-digit increase in the first quarter on appetite for spending and investment boosted demand for loans.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that domestic credit grew by 12.5 percent in the first quarter from a year ago, much faster than the 7.2 percent registered in the same period last year.

As a result, BSP data also showed that domestic credit-to-GDP ratio improved to 48.7 percent in the first quarter from 46.7 percent in the same period a year ago. The ratio is the proportion of domestic credit to the country's economic gross domestic product for the year.

Monetary officials said the increase in credit indicated the country reflects growing demand for loans on the back of a relatively favorable consumer and business sentiment.

An increase in investments by local firms has been witnessed recently together with a rise in demand for loans that support their operations and operations they said.

Consumer and households also exhibited higher demand for loans. Officials said this is partly because of growing remittances, which gave the recipients confidence in buying big-ticket items—such as residential units and automobiles—and for investing in microenterprises with the help of loans from banks and other creditors.

But officials said credit is growing also because example supply of liquidity which fuels the appetite of banks and other financial institutions to extend more loans.

They said credit growth in the first quarter helped the economy grow by a more than expected rate of 6.4 percent, and bringing the full-year growth target of 5 to 6 percent within reach.

On the 10th death anniversary of

Ma. Teresa Razón

masses will be offered at:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Magallanes, Makati City at 6:30 AM

Immaculate Conception Parish San Agustin Church Intramuros, Manila at 7:00 AM

Santuario de San Jose Mandaluyong City at 7:15 AM

Santuario de San Antonio McKinley Road, Makati City at 7:30 AM

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish Ermita, Manila at 12:15 PM

Our Lady of Remedios Parish Malate, Manila at 6:00 PM

St. John Bosco Parish San Lorenzo, Makati City at 6:00 PM

PACITA ALAFRIZ VDA DE GALVEZ

September 27, 1927 – August 7, 2012

Thirty-four Years Beloved Spouse of the late Gregorio Galvez; Loving Mother of Veronica Bermudez and son-in-law Joe Mojica.

She is survived by her children Jorge (Joe), Rebecca, Anita and Raul, sons-in-law Danny, and Oscar; daughter-in-law, Elena; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels on Commonwealth Avenue, QC.

Interment will take place in Holy Cross Memorial Gardens located in Novaliches, QC on Sunday, August 12, 2012 following the 10AM Mass.

"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up."
– Hosea 6:1

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that "FIGHTER BOTTLE CONTAINER" used on shoes and other alcoholic beverages is registered as a trademark under Trademark Registration No. 4-2011-008671 issued by the Philippine Intellectual Property Office in favor of **BY MAGGY WINE FACTORY, INC.** The Trademark Registration covers bottle containers embossed with the "FIGHTER" trademark as owner of the "FIGHTER BOTTLE CONTAINER" trademark. **BY MAGGY WINE FACTORY, INC.** has the exclusive right to use the said trademark as well as to prohibit others from using any trademark or trade name which is exactly the same or confusingly similar to it.

Any illegal and unauthorized use of bottles which are embossed with the "FIGHTER" trademark violates **BY MAGGY WINE FACTORY, INC.** This is intellectual property rights and constitutes trademark infringement and unfair competition, which are criminal and penalized, respectively, under Section 155 and Section 168 in relation to Section 170 of Republic Act No. 8293 the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

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RA 623 also provides that the sale by any person without the written permission of the trademark owner of bottles (which are stamped with registered trademarks), or the possession thereof by any junk dealer without the written permission of the trademark owner, shall give rise to the prima facie presumption that such use or possession is unlawful.

This public is hereby warned not to use and fill to bottles containers embossed with the "FIGHTER" trademark with any other liquid for purposes of the sale thereof. Junk dealers are also advised to surrender all bottles embossed / embossed with the "FIGHTER" trademark that are in their possession to **BY MAGGY WINE FACTORY, INC.**

BY MAGGY WINE FACTORY, INC. will not hesitate to prosecute anyone who infringes its intellectual property rights and its rights under RA 623.

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(PSN-Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 2012)

CLASSIFIEDS

PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION (PEF) invites serious-committed and development-oriented individuals who can provide support in the programs and projects in social enterprise development, organizational empowerment, good governance, and civil society organization effectiveness. Visit www.pef.ph for more details.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT MANAGER – Leads the development, execution, and evaluation of the foundation's research and knowledge management agenda and programs, communication and publication and policy and advocacy integration.

A bachelor's degree and at least five years of experience in similar jobs required. Candidates should be proficient in knowledge management, policy development and evaluation, research and development and communications and publication.

ADVOCACY MANAGER – Leads the development, execution and evaluation of the Foundation's advocacy agenda and programs.

Candidates must have bachelor's degree and at least seven years experience in similar jobs. Candidates should be proficient in policy development and evaluation, communication and publication.

FINANCE OFFICER – Ensures that policies and procedures in finance, budgeting, audit and investments are installed and consistently complied with. Supports organizational development, participatory development and management reporting, risk management and monitoring, finances and budget management, financial analysis and accounting, statutory compliance, and staff supervision.

Candidates should be certified public accountants with at least five (5) years related work experience. They should be proficient in financial management (i.e., financial accounting, investment monitoring, taxation, budget preparation and monitoring, payroll and administration).

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – responsible for ensuring that systems and procedures are implemented in the major areas of human resource management (HRM). The HR and Admin Officer must include: (1) Recruitment, (2) Compensation and Benefits Administration, (3) Training and Development, (4) Performance Management, (5) Job Design/Evaluation and Organization Development, (6) HRIS, and (7) General Services/Office Management.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in Social Work (with an human resource management), labor management, or psychology, with at least five (5) years experience in similar positions. They should be proficient in human resources management & development, office management.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (SEDS) SPECIALIST – Assists the SEDS Officer in industry scanning, opportunity spotting and management of enterprise development packages.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree with at least three (3) years experience in similar positions. They should be proficient in project/program management, institution building, networking, and training and development.

Successful candidates are hard forward to both the challenge and the satisfaction of contributing to program solutions that meaningfully address poverty and marginalization in the country. In addition, the work involves a considerable land travel/fieldwork that is considered a specialty in the NGO community.

Interested applicants may send their updated resumes, detailing qualifications, training and experiences relevant to the positions applied for, until August 31, 2012. Send all materials to hrad@pef.ph

Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) Project RFP, No. 00, In-Country Facilitators for 00 Asia Study Tours

The Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) project, implemented by Chemonics International, is soliciting offers from eligible firms for facilitators within Thailand and the Philippines, during 2012, to manage the in-country travel and the scheduling of university and ministry appointments, as well as any needed linguistic interpretation services during the study tours. There will be 2 study tours (each one-week in length). During the site visits, the Indonesian participants will observe successful examples of programs that demonstrate high quality and relevant programs, that have been implemented and sustained through effective leadership and strong financial management, and are bolstered by rigorous quality assurance mechanisms. Thus, the site visits will allow Indonesian participants to address core management areas as participants develop their own research projects. Each study tour will include participants from 4-6 Indonesian universities, each represented by 2 emerging university leaders. The study tours will visit several Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Thailand and the Philippines. The study tours require the assistance of facilitators who are familiar with the conduct of higher education in Thailand and/or the Philippines. These facilitators shall manage in-country travel, interpretation assistance, cultural navigation issues for all participants, and also ensure that the host university meetings are planned and proceed as scheduled. Officers may submit proposals for the study tours in Manila, the Philippines, and Bangkok, Thailand, or both locations. Chemonics International Inc. will issue an award to one or more companies or organizations. The award will be in the form of a Firm Fixed Price Subcontract (or other form as Chemonics subcontract). The successful offeror will be required to adhere to the terms of the subcontract.

Please find full details about the request for projects requested at our website http://www.chemonics.com/OpenOpportunities/Pages/Higher-Education-Leadership-and-Management-Project-RFP-00.aspx

All questions and/or clarifications regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted to helmdakarta@chemonics.com no later than midnight (Manila time, on August 10, 2012. Questions and requests for clarification, and the responses thereto, that IHEAM believes may be of interest to other offerors, who expressed an intention to bid, will be circulated. Offers must be received by email no later than 4:00pm jakarta time, on August 17, 2012, to helmdakarta@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

The public is hereby informed of the loss of the following stock certificate by virtue of the execution of an affidavit of loss executed by Andrew Ong, on July 16, 2012, subscribed before Notary Public Jose E. Tobias and entered in his Notarial Book as Doc. No. 416; Page No. 83; Book No. 33; Series of 2012; and stock certificate is more particularly described as follows:

Name of Issuing Corporation	MEGAINVESTMENT CORPORATION
Name of Registered Owner	ANDREW ONG
Stock Certificate No.	0000007343
No. of Shares	1,000

(PSN-Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2012)

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GuthrieJensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT

Deeply mourns with the family of its President and Chairman of the Board, with the loss of their matriarch

Vicenta Lejos Guzman

of Piat, Cagayan and Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

She peacefully joined our Creator on August 8, 2012 at the age of 87.

Her children, **Charito** and **Ensu Lasam**, **Letty** and **Roy Pablo**; **Vic** and **Fita**, **Justin** (†) and **Angie**, **Jimmy** and **Dottie**, **Kit** and **Dennis Sadang**, **Chona** and **Danny Reyes**, **Mae** and **Resty Tobias**, **Manolo** and **Gaye**, **Vida** and **Bobby Nerves**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request for prayers from relatives, friends, and pious readers.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Sunday, August 12 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the 40th Death Anniversary of

AMBROSIO BIBBY PADILLA

on August 11, 2012

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPHA ESTATE, Sucat-Alabang Highway, Antipolo City and at the following Churches:

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Church the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City	8:00 AM
Divine Mercy Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City	9:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Kaybiga, Caloocan City	7:00 AM
Holy Family Parish, Fairview, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Molino III, Bacoor, Cavite	7:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Antipolo Cathedral, Antipolo City	8:00 AM
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Cembo, Makati City	12:00 NN
Our Lady of the Abandoned Shrine, Cembo, Makati City	5:30 PM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Cembo, Makati City	5:30 PM
Our Lady of the Abandoned Chapel, Cembo, Makati City	5:30 PM

The children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

In Memory of Our Beloved

Atty. RAZON TUMBOCON HARESCO

on his 12th Death Anniversary
August 11, 2012 (Saturday)

His children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, inspired the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of **NANAY DOMING**.

Holy Masses will be offered by his Bishop friends and the Clergy at the following Churches/Chapels:

CHURCH	CELEBRANT	LOCALE	TIME
Our Lady Monastery of the Immaculate Conception	Rev. Bro. DESIDERIO "DE ASIS" O.D. archbishop Emeritus of Tuguegarao	Brgy. Ipil-Ipil, Cagayan	10:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish Church	Most Rev. RUFINO "MAMPIN" SUE, D.D. Bishop Emeritus of San Jose de Antique	Green Meadows, Quezon City	9:00 a.m.
Our Lady Monastery	Most Rev. ROBERTO "ROBBIE" OLIVA, D.D. Bishop of Parañaque	Ayala, Nasugbu, Batangas	11:30 a.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral	Most Rev. FLORENTINO "FLORRY" CAMPOS, D.D. Bishop of Tarlac	Tarlac City	7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Fatima and Good Voyage Cathedral	Most Rev. GODOFREDO "GOD" MENDOZA Bishop of Antipolo	Antipolo City	7:00 a.m.
San Fernando Cathedral	Most Rev. FLORENTINO "FLORRY" CAMPOS, D.D. Bishop of Tarlac	Bacoor, Cavite	8:00 a.m.
Monastery of St. Clare	Most Rev. ANTONIO "TONY" D. MARAVILLAS, D.D. Bishop of Legazpi	Legazpi, Quezon	9:00 a.m.
St. Pius XV	Most Rev. JOSE CERVANTES "JOE-L-CAT" ARES, D.D. Bishop of Zamboanga	Makati	7:00 a.m.
St. Sebastian of Pulanlupa Cathedral	Most Rev. SOFRONIO "SOFRONIO" SUE, D.D. Archbishop of Lipa	Calamba City, Laguna	10:30 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Peter Chapel	Rev. Fr. MIGUEL M. R. ASBOGRADA Archdiocesan Chancellor of Tuguegarao	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	9:30 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Peter Chapel	Rev. Fr. ANDRE GRANADA, JCM School of Chaplains	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	8:00 a.m.
Most Pure Monastery of Our Lady, Queen of Peace	Rev. Fr. ANTONIO "ANTOY" DIZON, OSM	Mt. Carmel Rd., Antipolo Cathedral	8:00 a.m.
St. Sebastian Baptist Cathedral	Rev. Fr. JOSE "JOJO" CABRERA, CSJ	Antipolo, Rizal	7:00 a.m.
St. Sebastian Baptist Cathedral	Rev. Fr. JOSE "JOJO" CABRERA, CSJ	Antipolo, Rizal	9:00 a.m.
St. Sebastian Baptist Cathedral	Rev. Fr. JOSE "JOJO" CABRERA, CSJ	Antipolo, Rizal	10:00 a.m.
Chapel of Nuestra Sra. De Salvacion	Rev. Fr. EDMUNDO "EDDIE" CRUZ	Bonanza, Subic	9:00 a.m.
San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. ISIDRO "ISIDRO" DE LEON	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	7:00 a.m.
Santa Cristina Chapel	Rev. Fr. ISIDRO "ISIDRO" DE LEON	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	9:00 a.m.
Chapel of St. Joaquin the Mother	Rev. Fr. JOSE R. BELTRAN	Bonanza, Subic	8:00 a.m.
Chapel of the Archangel, Bro. Mike Quinones	Rev. Fr. EDGAR JUAN CARLO "CARLO" CAMPOS	Bonanza, Subic	9:00 a.m.
Shalom Chapel, Sta Cruz Extension	Rev. Fr. GEORGE M. PEDRO	Bonanza, Subic	8:00 a.m.
College Seminary, Sta. Rosa Subdivision	Rev. Fr. NONOY P. CAPUNO	Bonanza, Subic	9:00 a.m.
San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. EDGAR A. AGAPAY	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	7:00 a.m.
St. Peter the Apostle Church	Rev. Fr. FREDERICO "FRED" DE GUZMAN, JR.	Calaca, Batangas	8:00 a.m.
St. John the Apostle Church	Rev. Fr. OSCAR "OSCAR" SUAREZ	Tanauan, Batangas	7:00 a.m.
St. John the Apostle Church	Rev. Fr. OSCAR "OSCAR" SUAREZ	Tanauan, Batangas	9:00 a.m.
St. John the Apostle Church	Rev. Fr. OSCAR "OSCAR" SUAREZ	Tanauan, Batangas	10:00 a.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Church	Rev. Fr. ELIZALDE "ELIZALDE" DE LEON	Santiago, Isabela, Isabela	8:00 a.m.
Holy Trinity Oratory Chapel	Rev. Fr. FRANCIS "FRANCIS" DE LEON	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	8:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Rev. Fr. EDGAR "EDGAR" DE LEON	Santiago, Isabela	10:00 a.m.
Adela College Chapel	Rev. Fr. MONINA "CEL" ROJAS	Roxas, Isabela	7:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Cathedral	Rev. Fr. Felix "Felix" ANTONIO	Roxas, Isabela	8:00 a.m.
Monastery of Clarisa	Rev. Fr. EDGAR "EDGAR" DE LEON	Sta. Margarita	9:00 a.m.
St. John Organization Church	Rev. Fr. ANTONIO "TONY" DE LEON	Tuguegarao, Cagayan	9:00 a.m.

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LGP Resources & Dev't. Corp.	#12
COMELEC	#21
DOLE-ACR	B7
DOLE Region IV-A	B7

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Ellie Cesar D. Mangaoang
[illegible]
E-mail: [illegible]

Experts link climate change to animal products consumption

By Tess R. Salazar

BETTER BELIEVE it, environment experts claim the weather we have today is partly the result of our appetites. Although the causes of climate change is no doubt multifaceted, livestock propagation to meet the world's increasing appetite for animal products has been assumed to be a significant factor in environmental destruction.

Worldwide greenhouse gas emissions have been attributable to animal products such as cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, pigs and poultry chickens. The "Livestock and Climate Change" published in one of the issue of World Watch magazine reported that livestock and their by-products actually account for at least 32.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) per year, or 51 percent of all worldwide annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the perceptible culprit here for climate change.

Warning

Climate experts have warned that 2017 will be the last year that the International Energy Agency has estimated for oil consumption to have risen 0.5% annually. Otherwise, if the target is not met, the rise of global temperatures to 2°C by 2050 will be irreversible. UN environment correspondent Suzanne Goldenberg recently wrote in The Guardian a study published in Environmental Research Letters, warning that livestock changes in land production and in the diseases vulnerable to the weather-by-order to prevent catastrophic global warming. She wrote that growing beef crops for cattle and pig products more GHG emissions than crops that go directly into the human food chain. Eating less meat, she concluded, would reduce demand for fertilizer as well as reduce the amount of manure produced.

Nitrous oxide, released by fertilizers and animal manure, is the most potent of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. The UN's climate study has called for deep cuts to these emissions. Some researchers are at work growing artificial meat which would avoid using fertilizers and manure. This was cited in The Guardian in April 2012, which said this situation has been "arguably the most difficult challenge in dealing with climate change: how to reduce emissions from food production while still producing enough to feed a global population projected to reach 9 billion by the middle of this century."

The findings, by Eric Davidson, director of the Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, say the developed world will have to cut fertilizer use by 80 percent and persuade consumers in the developed world to stop eating so much meat.

Rodney Sullivan, in the April 20, 2012 issue wrote that the 2006 report estimated that 18 percent of worldwide GHG emissions attributable to cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, pigs and poultry (chicken) were, in fact, updated to 51 percent, citing an study conducted by Robert Goodland, a former World Bank Group environmental advisor with co-author Jeff Anhang, an environmental specialist at the World Bank Group's International Finance Corp.

Threats to long-term food security

The production system that generates our grain-fed meats does not only worsen our environment but helps destroy them, chief executive Vincent Lappe in "Diet for a Small Planet." Some facts that threaten our long-term food security are water costs, soil erosion, energy costs and import dependency.

Producing just one pound of fresh meat 2,500 gallons of water. To produce a pound of meat, subsidy protection as with 500 calories of feed energy; takes 21,000 calories of feed fuel, expended mainly in producing the crops fed to livestock.

Ilene R. Cheeke, professor of animal agriculture at Oregon University, explained: "There can be no dispute that corn and soybeans would are used with more efficiency, and cost, provided for more people when they are eaten directly by people rather than being fed to swine or poultry to be converted to pork, chicken meat, or eggs for human consumption."

Surprising environmental cost

Worldwide meat production (beef, chicken, pork and other animal products) rises more substantially (300 fold) than all forms of global transportation or industrial processes. This study ("The Greenhouse hamburger: Producing beef for the table has a surprising environmental cost: a release prodigious amounts of heat-trapping greenhouse gases"), published in the February 2009 issue of the Scientific American, was written by Stephen Ruis, a doctoral candidate in resources in the University of California, Irvine.

Rajendra Pachauri, chair the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, agrees with Ruis's findings, telling BBC Money: "The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that three-quarters from meat production accounts for about 10 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. So I want to highlight the fact that eating options for an upcoming climate change, changing diets is a must being one decade consider."

It's growing number of Filipinos are spurning meat-rich food (gradually shunning animal products). Some have turned to online networking sites such as Facebook's pinpoint for vegetarian support group, or have enjoyed restaurant at viewthepage.com.ph.

High blood pressure and beta blockers

THE DOCTOR IS IN
Ramon A. Dimasuay Jr., M.D.

ONE OUT of four Filipino adults has high blood pressure (hypertension) or a blood pressure (BP) reading equal to or higher than 140/90 millimeters mercury (mmHg). One in 10 Filipino adults has prehypertension or a BP reading in the range of 120-139/80-89 mmHg. These are among the findings of the latest 2008 National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHS 3 Philippine data) published this year.

Hypertension is a major risk factor for kidney disease, heart attack, congestive heart failure and stroke. Lifestyle modification is an effective way of controlling hypertension. This includes losing weight (if overweight or obese), eating a healthy diet, exercising regularly, quitting smoking, and moderation in drinking alcoholic beverages.

If lifestyle modification proves inadequate in controlling hypertension, the doctor will prescribe any of several classes of antihypertension medications, such as beta blockers, calcium channel blockers, diuretics, ACE inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers (single or in combination, if necessary).

Improves blood flow

Beta blockers are a class of antihypertension medications that works by widening (dilating) blood vessels and slowing heart rate to improve blood flow and decrease blood pressure. The exact mechanism on how heart rate by blocking the vasoconstrictor of certain nerve impulses. When certain nerves are stimulated, they release a chemical (neurotransmitter) called norepinephrine. Norepinephrine then stimulates beta adrenergic receptors on heart cells causes an increase in the force and rate of the heartbeat. The beta-adrenergic receptors are also found in other tissues such as cells in various parts of the body including the heart, lungs, and blood vessels.

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Beta blockers "fit" on beta-adrenergic receptors and stop their from being stimulated, thereby reducing the force of contraction by the heart muscle and rate of the heartbeat. Because of their dual effect of dilating blood vessels and slowing heart rate, beta blockers are used not only to lower blood pressure but also to prevent chest pain (angina), relieve a person's risk of suffering another heart attack, control certain abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias), and help treat heart failure.

There are many types of beta blockers. However, are all beta blockers the same in terms of the beta-adrenergic receptors they target. First-generation beta blockers slow down heart activity by blocking B1 receptors in the heart muscles; however, they also block the B2 receptors, which causes many of the side effects associated with older types of beta blockers (e.g. bronchoconstriction, increased blood sugar, erectile dysfunction). As such, first-generation beta blockers should not be prescribed to patients with asthma and diabetes.

Second-generation beta blockers are relatively selective for B1 receptors, but their selectivity are lost at higher doses. Third-generation beta blockers, such as nebivolol, selectively block B1 receptors only and therefore don't cause the side effects usually caused by older-generation beta blockers. Unlike older beta blockers, third-generation beta blockers don't cause the additional effect of lowering blood vessels. Because of their unique dual mode of action, third-generation beta blockers provide other benefits such as improved arterial function and arterial effect on blood sugar levels, making them safer to use in hypertensive patients with diabetes.

Life-saving benefits

There is solid scientific evidence that supports the life-saving benefits of lowering blood pressure, a meta-analysis presented in the 2003 guidelines on hypertension management showed that effective blood pressure management resulted in a 30- to 40-percent reduction in strokes, 25- to 35-percent reduction in coronary heart disease and about a 20-percent reduction in cardiovascular mortality. Because uncontrolled hypertension is a risk factor for the development of congestive heart failure, hypertensive treatment reduces a person's risk of developing the life-threatening disease. The use of beta blockers to treat failure has been proven to improve ventricular function and patient well-being, reduce hospital admissions, worsening heart failure, and increase patient survival.

(Dr. Ramon Dimasuay is a cardiologist (heart specialist), medical director and president of the Heart Rehabilitation Society of the Philippines. The Doctor is in column is a health information exchange supported by Astrazeneca Philippines, Inc., a multinational company devoted to creating innovative medicines to help patients live healthier lives. For more information and encouragement for more informative, e-mail cmdimasuay@yahoo.com.)

Saving Pinoys from serious form of glaucoma

By Charles F. Bolaos

AMONG THE types of glaucoma, the "bright disease" may be regarded as most frightening since it involves the rapid increase in pressure inside the eye, otherwise known as intraocular pressure.

As the iris—the colored part of the eye—is pushed or pulled up against the drainage channels, the fluid inside the eye (aqueous humor) is trapped and that, causes drain out, thereby increasing intraocular pressure.

Such mounting rise in pressure is sudden and demands immediate medical attention as this condition could result in optic nerve damage and vision loss.

The bad news? Asians are probably the most exposed to this type of glaucoma.

"Asians have an anatomic predisposition to this type of glaucoma. Because Asians have a narrower fluid drainage system, many angles studies on the disease show that Asian have higher incidences of angle closure glaucoma," said Dr. Jaime Montemar, vice president of the Philippine Glaucoma Society.

Montemar said that in one study glaucoma is set to become the second leading cause of blindness worldwide, after cataracts.

"Currently affecting Asians and Asians—by the year 2020 an estimated 11 million people will have angle closure glaucoma, 87 percent of which will reside in Asia.

He also cited a 2001 study done in two eye centers in Manila by the team of Dr. Dorothea Rita Hilario wherein "angle closure glaucoma patients suffering from severe visual damage and higher pressures require more medical intervention compared to Filipino patients with open angle glaucoma, the more common type among Caucasians and Europeans.

Should be addressed immediately

"Night-time glaucoma should be addressed immediately because the patient may suffer from headaches, eye pain, nausea, seeing rainbows around light and blurred vision (although these symptoms may not be present in all cases)," Montemar said.

To detect the conditions, an eye doctor could view the drainage channels of the eye. This involves procedure called gonioscopy can help the eye doctor assess one's risk for developing angle closure.

"It is still best to see an eye doctor for early detection. Our ethnicity makes us more at risk for blindness from angle closure glaucoma. Filipinos should be very wary of this," Montemar said.

Philippine Glaucoma Society, whose motto is, "That an Filipino will ever go blind from glaucoma," is the leading institution for glaucoma care and detection in the country.

Philippine Glaucoma Society teamed up with multispecialty healthcare firm Asiaeye to help patients in the Philippines understand their choices to make well-informed treatment.

"Treating angle glaucoma is one of the leading causes of adult blindness. It is also the leading cause of preventable blindness. Glaucoma often gives no warning sign until permanent damage has already occurred, which is why people who go blind from glaucoma are blind to at least one eye at the time of diagnosis, which points to the need for better early diagnosis," Montemar said.

Beware of flood-borne diseases

MEDICAL FILES
Rafael Castillo

WITH THE "HABAGAT" taking rather this week, Rhea Medila and several provinces in Luzon are sadly become a huge body of water. With the floods come another problem which can probably be more devastating than the immediate effects this bring. Floods can be a potential source of many water-borne diseases, such as typhoid fever, cholera, leptospirosis and hepatitis A. It can also increase the risk of cancer, as cancer-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever have been reported when massive floods occur.

Every time it floods, we see people, especially children, swimming in flood waters. They should be so reckless knowing that because the rain these children have the slightest sliding what risk they're exposing themselves to. Aside from the risk of acquiring a bacterial or protozoal infection, there are also other waterborne diseases which can be connected through direct contact with polluted waters. They include wound infection, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections. Although these diseases are not epidemic-prone, they can make those children really sick and unable to go back to school when classes resume.

Although flooding increases risk of infection and disease, reports from the World Health Organization (WHO) note that this risk is relatively low unless there is significant population displacement or when water sources are contaminated. When these happen, a disease outbreak is likely to happen.

It is amazing that our Department of Health (DOH) has a flood disease control program in place to prevent outbreaks. The DOH and other government agencies should also closely monitor the flooding of garbage and sewage treatment plants because this can quickly contaminate any safe flood water but they're not as well.

A potentially serious epidemic is prone infectious rabies can be transmitted directly from one human to another through bites or scratches. Rabies is usually fatal when symptoms start this week. Those with open wounds have a higher risk of getting infected because of direct contact with contaminated floodwaters.

Health Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag advised people in flood-prone areas to go immediately to the hospital at the first sign of fever so leptospirosis could be ruled out. The fever is usually accompanied by muscle pains, headache and reddish eyes. In late stages, affected individuals may experience yellowish body discoloration. Such referred as the, light urine and decreased urine output. Kidney failure, liver and brain damage may follow in some. In late stages, patients require dialysis or take their own urine to drink.

Leptospirosis is easily find cases, but the good news is that it can be prevented by a simple antibiotic prophylaxis—taking doxycycline 200 mg, one capsule once weekly. The DOH is giving out the antibiotics for free for residents in flood-affected areas. It is advisable that they take this antibiotic prophylaxis. Medical teams from the DOH are now conducting mass prophylaxis in various areas in Metro Manila and Luzon.

Aside from leptospirosis listed, tetanus is not common after injury from flooding, and the WHO and the DOH do not recommend mass tetanus vaccinations. Instead, people are encouraged to get vaccinated when disaster floods occur. However, they recommend tetanus boosters for previously vaccinated people who sustain wounds, particularly deep punctured wounds. Tetanus immune globulin (Hypertet) is also recommended as a booster dose to people who have not been actively vaccinated and those whose wounds are highly contaminated.

Children and the elderly can also develop hypothermia if trapped in floodwater for a long period of time. We see people on television staying on the rock exposed to the elements when the floods have reached critical levels in their homes. If so, relax the tension some they refuse to budge, preferring to stay put to guard their belongings. They could develop hypothermia and may result to loss of life over valuable belongings—their own life. The floods come and go, and come back again. But one's life only goes once.

PH more resilient than other countries, says gov't

ICTSI bags deal to run major Nigeria terminal

By Doris C. Dumlao

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. has bagged a new contract to develop and run a major container terminal in Nigeria's Lagos Free Trade Zone that is expected to be the largest terminal in sub-Saharan Africa once operational in 2014.

ICTSI is expected to invest over $225 million in this project, thus rising its stake in Africa. The Philippine company currently has operations in Madagascar, making Nigeria its second market in the region.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday, ICTSI said it had signed a subconcession agreement with Lekki Port LFTZ (LPL) for a container terminal at a deep water spot in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, also called Tolaram Port phase 1A, which is envisioned to be a world class, modern multi purpose port that will serve not only Nigeria but also its neighboring countries.

In a separate statement, ICTSI said it would invest in excess of $225 million to provide cutting-edge equipment and related information technology infrastructure. This investment forms part of the $1.6 billion being invested in the entire port development.

The Tolaram Port(Lekki) is currently being developed and managed by the Tolaram group in partnership with the Nigerian Port Authority and the Lagos State Government.

The agreement grants ICTSI, or sub-concessionaire, the exclusive right to develop and operate as well as to provide certain handling equipment and container terminal services within Tolaram Port(Lekki) for a period of 25 years.

"ICTSI is looking forward to entering the regional market with this eminent project. 1,600 International Container Terminal Services (ICTSI). This new concession will reinforce ICTSI's presence in Africa and anticipate the demand at our facilities as developments in Africa," ICTSI chair Enrique Razon Jr. said during the concession signing ceremony in Singapore.

Mohan Wadwani, chair of Tolaram Group, said: "We anticipate that the demand at our facility will go beyond the expected 2.5 million TEU total equivalent units. We are designing the port to allow for expansion to serve that excess demand in a short span of time upon completion."

The strategic location of the container terminal, combined with its state-of-the-art facilities, will enable Tolaram Port(Lekki) to establish itself as the preferred port terminal in the region," ICTSI said in the disclosure.

With a quay of 1,200 meters, this modern facility is expected to become the largest single terminal in sub-Saharan Africa.

ICTSI is a leading port management company involved in the operations and development of 29 marine terminals and port projects in 17 countries. It was among the first international terminal operators to expand globally, establishing a good track record in various economies previously not open to them.

Robust domestic demand offsets ill effects of Euro zone crisis

By Michelle V. Reina

THE PHILIPPINES is more resilient to the dampening effects of unfavorable developments in the global economy than most emerging markets in the region.

The Philippine government based its claim largely on the strength of domestic demand, which makes it less affected by the anemic demand from advanced economies compared to export-oriented economies in the region.

"The Philippine economy is less encumbered to trade shocks than other EMs (emerging markets)," the Aquino administration said in a report distributed by the Investor Relations Office (IRO) to foreign investors in recent road shows abroad.

The Philippines' vulnerability to trade shocks, measured in terms of "trade openness," stands at just about 0.8 percent. This is lower than the vulnerability of other emerging markets in the region, the IRO said, citing the 1.7 percent for Thailand and Taiwan, and the 1.3 percent for Malaysia.

Trade openness is computed as the proportion of current account inflows and outflows to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Current account flows are composed of export revenue, import outlays and remittances.

Moreover, the "GDP growth model" followed by the Philippines at the height of the latest global economic crisis in 2009 stood at only 3.1 percent. This is lower than the growth shock of 5.3 percent for Malaysia and Thailand and 6.5 percent for Taiwan.

GDP growth shock measures the drag caused by a global economic slowdown on a certain economy.

It is computed as the standard deviation of a country's GDP growth for a certain year when the global economy weakened, to its own GDP, from its average growth rate in the preceding five years.

The higher degree of resilience of the Philippines to unfavorable developments abroad compared with other emerging markets was said to be due to its heavy reliance on domestic demand, economists said.

Export earnings account for about 20 percent of the Philippine economy, smaller than the over 50 percent for many emerging Asian economies.

Among domestic demand in the Philippines is credited partly to sustained growth in remittances, which fuel consumption of at least 10 percent of Filipino households.

Bacon-Manito rehabilitation faces 60-day delay

By Amy R. Remo

ENGINEERING Equipment Corp., the country's largest producer of geothermal energy expects the completion of the rehabilitation of the 130-megawatt Bacon-Manito geothermal power plants in Albay and Sorsogon to be delayed by 60 days.

Although the Bacon facilities were originally supposed to sell 110 million worth of electricity during the testing stage in the first half of the year, the delay may still have a negative impact on the company's 2012 earnings.

The Lopez affiliate expressed confidence, however, that it would be able to compensate both the commissioning and availability runs for the Bacon geothermal plants within the year, in time to declare full commerciality and achieve a full year of commissioned operations in 2013.

Once operational, EDC expects the pair of plants in Albay and Sorsogon to generate some P4.3 billion in revenues annually.

EDC originally expected to complete the rehabilitation by September this year.

The 60-day delay, which will push completion to November 2012, is attributed from the company's decision to re-blade two stages of the turbine rotor of Units 1 and 2, to address a failure that was identified in June 2012 after an inspection.

"The root cause of this emergent issue is known and new blades have been ordered. These blades will be delivered within the next four weeks and the installation of these to meet the critical path activity installation will make plants in September and October," EDC explained.

"The repair works on the generator rotors of both Units 1 and 2 are nearing completion in Ansaldo's workshop in Sudbrel, England. The issue with both the 55-MW generator rotors has been resolved and we expect the units to be on site by September 2012," it added.

The 20-MW Unit 3 generator is still undergoing repair and testing works in the Philippines, and is expected to be commissioned by November 2012.

Despite the delay, EDC said the final cost of the rehabilitation and upgrade works would not be one iota off from the $66 million estimate (roughly P2.8 billion).

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Before accepting your chart for the following companies/employers now filed with this Regional Office, application for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PHILIPPINE FLEET HOLDINGS INC. [illegible]	Hiroshi Endo (Japanese)	Director
NEW JIUCHANG ENTERPRISES [illegible]	Hongbiao Hu (Chinese)	Finance Manager
NUMBERS LTD - Manila Representative Office [illegible]	Shigenori Tanaka (Japanese)	Deputy General Manager
PLANTSPHILADELPHIA PHILS. INC. [illegible]	Kunio Watanabe (Japanese)	Director of Commerce
KOWLOON BUSINESS SERVICE, INC. [illegible]	Chin Ping (Chinese)	Technician
NUTRIVALUE ENERGY [illegible]	Emmanuel De Jesus (Filipino)	Senior Liaison Officer
[illegible]	Pui Lun Lee (Chinese)	Chef Cook
MEGA TEC MANILA, INC. [illegible]	Benjamin David John Black (Canadian)	President
[illegible]	Shaoming Xie (Chinese)	Supervisor
[illegible]	Kuan Chen Kuang (Taiwanese)	Field Service Manager
[illegible]	Jeong Hee Yoon (Korean)	Company Director
[illegible]	Jongho Choi (Korean)	Cook
[illegible]	Hanmanat Yang (Korean)	Marketing Manager
[illegible]	Kuldeep Singh Khatra (Indian)	Information Technology
[illegible]	Christopher Sonnge (Australian)	General Manager
[illegible]	Jagroop Singh (Indian)	Senior Superintendent
[illegible]	Hiroshi Hiraishi (Japanese)	Chief Executive Officer
[illegible]	Shuichi Hirakawa (Japanese)	Executive Director / Finance Manager
[illegible]	Kazuo Matsuzaki (Japanese)	Service Leader - Housekeeping
[illegible]	Glen Mark D'Cruz (Australian)	Cabinet Manager

MARIOTT DIAMOND HOTEL & RESIDENCES [illegible]	Andre Bernard Pagan (Italian)	Assistant Director for Food and Beverage
MARRIOTT DIAMOND HOTEL & RESIDENCES [illegible]	Andrew Mark Gee (Australian)	Hotel Manager
DAVID LYNN KING (PHILIPPINES) INC. [illegible]	David Lewis King (Australian)	Chief Financial Officer
[illegible]	Hendi (Indonesian)	Sports Trainer
[illegible]	Ho Jin Lee (Korean)	Customer Service Officer
[illegible]	Wahyu Hendrawan Hendi (Indonesian)	Sports Trainer
[illegible]	Yan Ju Ong (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer
[illegible]	Mark Anthony Velasquez	Chinese Mandarin Language Customer Service Support Staff
[illegible]	Pingping (Indonesian)	Customer Service Officer (E-Commerce)
[illegible]	Mao Qin Ying (Malaysian)	Chinese Mandarin Language Customer Service Support Staff
[illegible]	Arlan Prudente (Filipino)	Bilingual Interpreter Assistant Production Personnel
[illegible]	Kanthaya Pornsuk (Thai)	Cook / Cook's Helper
[illegible]	James Gregory Hood (American)	Account Manager
[illegible]	Shaoming Xie (Chinese)	Manager - Product
[illegible]	Yi Xiong (Chinese)	Project Manager
[illegible]	Tanyaporn Apanpol (Thai)	Manager - Employee Health Management

ERRATUM

In the list marked as Notice of Filing of Application for Alien Employment Permit published on July 13, 2012, the name of employer of Sukosberg Asia should have been read as Sukosberg Asia Philippines Inc. with address at Unit 1205 Antel Corporate Center, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. The application submitted on July 11, 2012, the nationality of Ning Wei Dept of EMBLEM ELECTRIC CORP. (PHIL. REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE) should have been read as Taiwanese and not as Australian.

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. IBASAN
Regional Director

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IVA

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

August 9, 2012

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	FUKUI PRECISION (PHILIPPINES), INC. Lima Technology Center, Lot 1, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Koji Asaki (Japanese)	VP - Procurement Technical Support
2.	HOYA GLASS DISK PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Kazuyuki Kuriwaki (Japanese)	General Manager
3.	HOYA GLASS DISK PHILIPPINES, INC. Cavite Economic Zone, Cavite	Mr. Kwong Kwan (Chinese)	Assistant Manager - Process Engineering
4.	SUN KANG CHEMEC PHILS. CO., INC. Brgy. Sandico, Binan City, Cavite	Mr. Yang Hwan Cho (Korean)	Treasurer
5.	TOYOKU PHILIPPINES, INC. Brgy. Sandico, Binan City, Cavite	Mr. Yuji Watanabe (Japanese)	Sales Manager
6.	YONG SAN PRECISION INDUSTRIES, INC. Lot 8-1, Brgy. Punta, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna	Mr. Byungyun Choi (Korean)	Technical Officer
7.	3M KOREA, INC. - PPF Sta. Rosa, Laguna	Mr. Ki Seon Moon (Korean)	General Manager
8.	PHARMA GARMENTS PHILIPPINE CORPORATION LOT1, Binan, Calauan, Laguna	Ms. Kathleen Bae (Korean)	Production Supervisor
9.	PHARMA GARMENTS PHILIPPINE CORPORATION LOT1, Binan, Calauan, Laguna	Mr. Donghyo Hong (Korean)	QC Staff
10.	HYUNJIN KAREN, INC. 3F Room 301 Rm. Rizal Commercial Center 4 Grandville Cor. Brgy. San Jose, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna	Mr. Jun Nakao (Japanese)	Sales Manager
11.	SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES, INC. Sumitomo Drive, Brgy. Pittland, Cabuyao City, Laguna	Mr. Jingle Lee (Chinese)	Welding Technician
12.	SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES, INC. Sumitomo Drive, Brgy. Pittland, Cabuyao City, Laguna	Mr. Yi Kong (Chinese)	Welding Technician
13.	PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURING CO. OF MARUBENI, INC. 3/F Marubeni City, Batangas	Mr. Masahiro Nakata (Japanese)	Assistant Manager - Facility Development Control Department

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application please communicate with the Regional Director.

DANTE LEVIN A. LEVISTE
OIC-Regional Director

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ALPHALAND TOWER HAS TOPPED OFF

Alphaland Tower, the newest and most modern office building along Ayala Avenue, was recently topped out on July 31 after only 14 months of construction. This marks another achievement for developer Alphaland Corporation.

Executives led by Alphaland President Mario A. Oreta, along with Meralfth Construction & Development Corp., Schitects Inc., RM Cabacula Construction Management Corp., local consultants and members of the press, were in attendance. The ceremony was held on the sixth floor and began with a blessing that was then followed by a symbolic final concrete pouring, signifying the building's structural completion. Capping off this milestone was an exclusive cocktail event that was held at The Alpha Town at Alphaland Southgate.

Hong Kong architects Wong & Ouyang designed the 34-storey building with one philosophy in mind – sustainability. Built with environmentally sustainable features that allow for enormous energy savings, less water consumption and an overall healthier environment, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has given Alphaland Tower a pre-certified GOLD rating for Core and Shell.

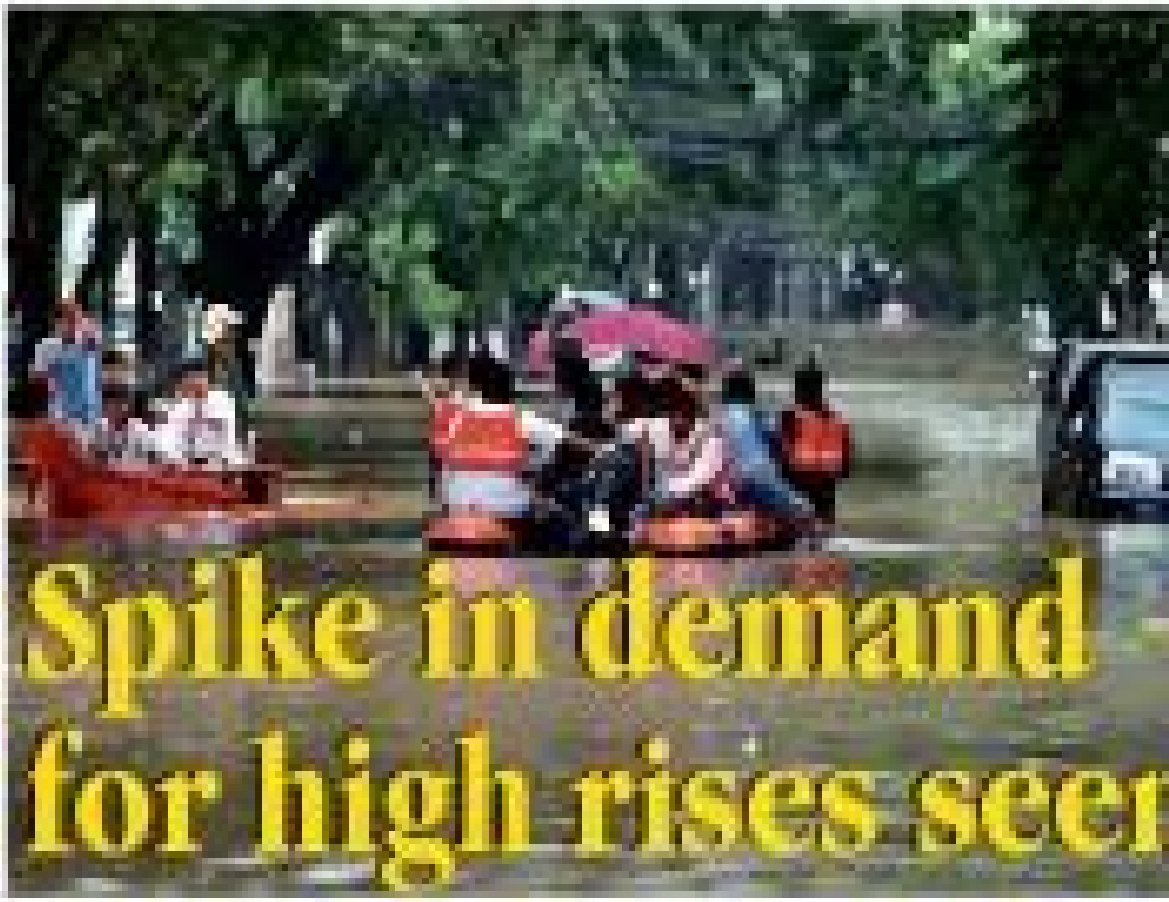
With 21st century technologies to help its end users comply with a fast-paced global business environment, Alphaland Tower is set to become the smartest and poshest office space along Ayala Avenue.

For leasing inquiries, please contact Alphaland Corporation at:
T: +632.848.6188; +632.337.3011 local 154
M: +63.917.582.5742
E: sales@alphaland.com.ph
www.alphalandtower.com.ph

alphaland
TOWER
8788 AYALA AVENUE

THE LAST CONCRETE POURING. (L-R) Marianne M. Duggan (VP for Leasing), Kenneth A. Go (VP for Planning & Design), Engr. Ric Cabacula of RM Cabacula Construction Management Corp., Jeanne Duggan Durete (VP for Sales and Marketing), Arch. Hung Kwan of Schitects, Inc., Fernando B. Santos (COO and SVP for Project Management & Development), Mario A. Oreta (President), and Engr. Mariano See Dee of Meralfth Construction & Development Corp., and Luis B. Villanueva (Project Director for Alphaland Tower) take part in the symbolic final concrete pouring signifying Alphaland Tower's structural completion.

PROPERTY



Spike in demand for high rises seen

WITH THIS KIND of boom, there's nowhere to go but up.

By Nestor M. Sabater

THE PLUNGING of up to 30 percent of Metro Manila in the past few days has been seen as a result of the "Ondoy" disaster [illegible] three years ago. [illegible] property experts, what has [illegible] caused recent [illegible] the spike in the demand for [illegible] are living immediately [illegible] existing floods.

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AS FLOODWATERS rise, so does the demand for high-rise living 12 months following the disaster.

Enrique M. Soriano III, Ateneo program director for real estate and senior adviser for Ming-e-Bernardo Business Advisory, said "we will definitely see an increase in rental and secondary market activity in the next 12 months."

Soriano added that the "demand for pre-selling projects with completion phase in the next 24 months will still follow a normal demand curve."

National Real Estate Association chair Alejandro S. Bautista said, "In general, I would say a spike in demand for properties in high elevations, whether for high-rise projects or even for house and lots, is in."

Julius Gorrees, Colliers International's associate director for valuation and advisory services and head of consultancy and research, said: "There may be a spike in demand, but not significantly for pre-selling condos, since those affected by the floods would want to immediately move into housing that is already available. Those who decide to move may opt to rent first while shopping for a new home, especially if their old homes were damaged significantly," Colliers International is a global real estate services.

Gorrees said: "There may be a slight jump in demand because of the recent flooding. Once again, people are reminded that the climate is changing and that their current place of residence may be found in a hazard zone. So there may be an increase in demand for condos as people look for safer places to live. However, it should be pointed out that those who were most deeply affected by the inundation are those low-income and low-middle-income families who cannot afford to live in high-rise areas. So they have no other option but to continue to live in these areas until the government delivers on their plans to re-

says...
GOODBYE ANAY!

MORPHOSE Thom Mayne in New Orleans could be replicated around the world including here in the Philippines.

'Floating' house could help PH tackle flooding crisis

By Charles E. Baker

WHEN IT rains, it pours. The past few days have seen a slew of floods in several parts of Luzon including the suburbs of Metro Manila, and it's not even covered by a typhoon.

With increasingly unpredictable weather conditions and the prevalence of flash floods and very heavy monsoon rains, building owners flood-proof assessment is becoming ever more vital.

Which is why designs for aqueous living should be on the minds of every architect, bringing the ideas that should support their attention to this particular housing project spearheaded by American actor Brad Pitt in New Orleans, the site of the devastating flood in 2005 (as aggravated by Hurricane Katrina).

With so much of the New Orleans lying below sea level, devastating floods are inevitable as Pitt and his Make It Right Foundation decided to invite world-renowned architects to build 150 houses that are designed to deal with flooding.

Pitt founded Make It Right in 2007 to help Lower 9th Ward residents who lost their homes during Typhoon Katrina in 2005. While these are notable affordable houses, they could be replicated around the world.

The architects Pitt enlisted include Morphosis Architects, which came up with a unique floating house design aimed at answering the challenges posed by New Orleans' flooding problems.

Called the Float House, it goes beyond ecosustainable design and construction and is built within the context of its environment.

While other houses in the lower 9th Ward also were either on stilts or were constructed of several levels, Morphosis opted for a single-story design that retains the look of the existing community as well as makes it more accessible to occupants who didn't want to or could not get up a long flight of stairs.

1.7 meters

Should the water rise, the house will literally break away from its moorings and rise up to 1.7 meters (1.2 feet). As it rises, the house will safely detach itself from its electrical lines, gas and plumbing.

To help the house float, the base is made up of polystyrene foam coated to glass fiber reinforced concrete.

To ensure that the house will not float away should the current increase, two guide posts on both ends serve as anchor and guide so that help stabilize the house as it follows the rising water.

Once the maximum height is reached, the Float House will be transformed into a raft that would provide its occupants with enough battery power to allow them to run appliances and survive for up to three days until help arrives.

According to Morphosis founder and senior of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, Thom Mayne, while the Float House has never been tested in real-life flood conditions, "we have conducted extensive computer simulations and modeled it to withstand Hurricane Katrina-like conditions."

The Netherlands

The idea of a floating house is of course, no longer new as Hollanders informed about the technology employed in the Floating House is already being used in The Netherlands, a country which is located below sea level and is actively working to address rising sea levels as expressed with climate change.

Instead of curving their lives, Dutch architects are designing a new Holland that will float on water.

The idea is that country is to build floating foundations—that is, employing concrete based filled with some kind of buoyant plastic foam—that could be used as a stable platform for buildings to stand on.

Such caveats are not without basis. A United Nations panel reported that many millions more people are projected to be flooded every year due to sea level rise by the 2080s.

From page B1-4

Turning disaster prone metro into a . . .

that it was necessary to "look upon disaster prevention as a basic tenet in urban planning, development, construction, education and through government policies of policies and measures which suit the individual characteristics of each area, create or revitalize our towns and cities safer to live in, work, shop, dine, worship and learn."

The 81 measures Palafox has been putting forward to the government are divided into two documents—one containing 20 recommendations on urban planning in the light of disastrous floods brought by Ondoy in 2009 and another, contained in a paper titled "Urban Planning, Architecture, and Engineering to Address Hazards: Towards Safer Cities, Towns and Communities."

Short-term action plans

Based on these documents, Palafox recommends carrying out short-term action plans and setting of long-term targets for disaster prevention; developing urban planning to prevent fire spreading in cities; securing open spaces; creating disaster-proof living zones; establishing proposals for prevention of disasters; setting up systems for fighting disasters; securing evacuation space and routes; preparing for new disaster policies and measures; and promoting comprehensive flood-control measures specific to areas, whether islands, mountains, hillside villages, islands, residential zones, farmlands, among others.

Palafox pointed out that there are several reasons urban planning in Metro Manila and the rest of the Philippines has not been so effective.

For one, those that are engaged now into planning are the politicians and not the urban planners, architects and engineers who have the expertise and the necessary tools to formulate comprehensive plans, Palafox explained.

Wrong models

He also pointed out that the Philippines has used the wrong models in urban planning, particularly the one followed in Los Angeles.

"Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia have used better models. LA has long realized its mistakes and they're now sending people to London, New York and Paris to redevelop their metropolises, while here in the Philippines, we copied all their mistakes. We copied their obsolete practices," he explained.

Palafox likewise noted that the country has a lot of obsolete infrastructure as well as archaic laws, codes and planning practices. In fact, many government offices, he said, are even violating those codes, including two buildings at the Malacañan Palace.

Positive start

The urban planners and architect however remains hopeful that given the political will of the present Aquino administration, all these issues may eventually be addressed. The government, he added, was off to a positive start when it implemented a so "carrot-and-stick" policy reflective of its unbending resolve to wage war against corruption.

Palafox was quick to note however that it should not end there. The strong political will and cooperation as seen in the Ease of Doing Business movement (or Bum Yeo and Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed are needed if the government intends to put the Philippines in the foreign firms' investment radar.

"There is hope... if we address major challenges, namely corruption, criminality, climate change, there is a chance that we may see the Philippines as among the Top 20 economies by 2025," he concluded.

Avida takes flight to better preserve heritage, habitat

By Theresa S. Sarmiento

AVIDA IS soaring to great heights to save its nest kind.

Literally that is, as the Philippine Eagle Foundation named a 13-year-old eagle under its care "Avida" after having an agreement with high-quality property developer Avida Land Corp.

Under this memorandum of agreement signed between the two parties, Avida Land has formalized its commitment to support the foundation's efforts to help save the Philippine eagle and its habitat.

If all goes well, "Avida" is expected to mature and be able to bear eagles of her own to help continue the line of Philippine eagle species.

While the Ayala Land subsidiary is in the business of providing quality homes to the hardworking Filipinos, Avida Land is also very much aware of the need to help provide all inhabitants of this planet a sustainable home—and that means not only the people, but all other forms of life as well.

Corporate sponsor

As such, Avida Land deemed that it was only right for the company to enter into such an agreement and serve as one of the corporate sponsors of the Philippine Eagle Foundation in a concentrated bid to preserve this critically endangered species.

The Philippine eagle, according to Avida Land, is considered to date as one of the largest and most powerful eagles in the world.

The company explained: "It is also one of the rarest of all eagle species, found only in the forests of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao. Unfortunately, the destruction of forests threatens these raptors' existence. The Philippine eagle is critically endangered and there are only about 500 pairs left in the wild."

Under the said agreement, Avida Land has specifically committed to support the foundation for the next three years to help breed Philippine eagles at the PEF sanctuary. The said sponsorship will also include efforts to educate the public on the importance of the Philippine eagle to Davao's ecosystem and to the country's national heritage.

"Avida Land's contribution will be spent on the care, maintenance and monitoring of nests of eagle chicks in the wild, including their daily feeding and veterinary care. Part of it will also go to other support programs of the PEF," the company said.

"Avida's partnership with the PEF is part of our overall commitment for sustainable development wherever there is an Avida property," it added.

Sustainability practice by its parent company Ayala Land, means building communities that meet the needs of customers; create benefits that last through generations; and, offer environment-friendly products and designs that uplift the lives of people in and around them.

For Ayala Land, the ultimate end of sustainability is nation-building. As such, the company ensures that sustainability is integrated into everything it does: from the decision and acquisition of land, to how it master plans communities and townships; in the design and construction of its properties.

Similarly, Avida Land stresses that all its developments are also in some planned to ensure that their operations are sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally sound.

Commitment

And as Avida Land expands its reach in the Visayas and Mindanao, it has remained true to continue its pursuit of sustainability for all its property developments. Avida has already rolled out its Avida Towers Cebu while Avida Towers Riala, also in Cebu, was recently launched.

Currently, Avida is developing the Country Tower in Cagayan de Oro; house and lot projects in Iloilo and Bacolod, and it will soon begin its first property project in Davao.

As of the first half of 2012, Avida Land has a total of 46 projects in 22 cities and towns. Avida homes are all beautifully and practically designed, can be acquired through flexible payment terms, and built to provide reliable performance over time. Avida means affordable living at its best.

For more than 20 years, Avida has focused on enriching the lives of the hardworking Filipino middle class by offering their families a home to be proud of. These are homes that thrive in a peaceful and safe community and are accessible to public transportation.

Spike in demand for high rises seen

From page B1-3

owner looming for the marginalized."

Claro AG Cordero Jr., Jones Lang LaSalle Leviton's head of research, consulting and valuation, assessed that there may be a visible spike in demand in the next few months due to the recent flooding, especially as this event "emphasizes the need for more [planned and well-designed communities to help preserve the status quo, more from happening."

Soriano said that a sudden spike in rental demand and secondary markets for high rise condos was felt immediately and within the 12 months after the Ondoy calamity.

"This happened in areas where Ondoy caused massive destruction. Residents had to abandon their homes and move to high-rise apartments," said Soriano.

Cordero said that what happened after Ondoy somehow influenced the growth of demand for high-rise accommodation. However, the main determinant of growth has still been due to the high level of population in the metropolitan areas.

Wishfully, he opined that there was an increased demand for high-rise living after Ondoy.

However he explained: "It wasn't only the flooding that served as a wake-up call to buyers to really take a closer look at condominium living. While they have realized the advantages of living in a properly maintained, responsibly developed and professionally managed project that still had electricity and water for at least a couple of days, or until the public utility lines were restored after being damaged by typhoons, they also discovered that they could actually enjoy 'resource rich' type amenities every day. So, yes, there was a spike, but it cannot be purely credited to the flooding."

Darwin said that "there was a noticeable increase in demand not only for condos but for all types of housing as long as they were in safer areas without history of flooding."

Darwin added that "the demand was more apparent for ready-for-occupancy housing since those that were displaced needed a place to move into right away. Demand also shifted somewhat from house and lot to condominiums, and from low-lying areas (i.e. Marikina) to higher ground (i.e. Cavite)."

"This demand was short-lived since it was believed that Ondoy was a once-in-a-lifetime event, but now that we have experienced it similar distance in less than three years, we foresee that buyers would be more particular on the location of their purchases," he said.

Game changer creates another first in QC

THE RESIDENCES at Commonwealth has three apple-shaped towers for the first time.

COMMONWEALTH by Century integrates a resort-like design, larger unit cuts and dedicates, beyond-the-usual amenities.

By Theresa S. Santiago

AFTER TAKING Makati by storm with its world-renowned designer brands, game changer Century Properties Group Inc. is bringing its 20-year heritage of innovation to Metro Manila's largest city.

With The Residences at Commonwealth by Century, the company is erecting a 4.6-hectare community of healthy pursuits in Quezon City that, like its other visionary projects, is an enticing and an premium with a most affordable price tag.

"The project name is the company's stamp of assurance that homeowners will enjoy the same mark of innovation, and the same tradition of life-enhancing residential experiences in this development," said Century Properties co-chief operating officer Marco Antonio.

Introduces the 'uncommon'

"Commonwealth by Century seeks to surpass the standards set for residential projects within this category by introducing pioneering amenities and features that will transcend what the market has been accustomed to," Antonio added.

Hence, the development will introduce the "uncommon" to redefine the standards for residential living in Quezon City," he explained.

Each of the eight multi-level towers will boast a distinct stacked design to optimize sunlight and allow the views of cool air. Select balconies will have private "floating gardens" that engage up the buildings' facades.

Aside from the unique sensational design of its buildings, Commonwealth by Century also brings the property developer's concept of the hyper-connected community that Century Properties has become known for.

"It's not just a question of providing amenities; it's what people can do with the amenities. Here at Commonwealth we took a step back and reflected on what kind of public spaces will truly matter to our residents. We know there is true wealth in self-discovery and self-enrichment, so we introduced brand new amenities that nurture the progression of the individual—from childhood to adulthood—and to enjoy from meditative to active," Antonio explained.

Brand-new amenities

Amenities will include a clubhouse that has the Grotto or leisure center, a Kinder garten on the ground floor and an Advanced Learning Center, a computer laboratory, an arts and crafts room, a music studio, as well as a 3DX cinema and a fully equipped cooking studio and kitchen.

Landscaped and waterscape parks will also be made available to residents, while the roof deck will house a fitness center, a salon and spa and a multipurpose hall.

For the little tykes, the Commonwealth by Century has three apple-shaped tree houses that will have lots such of ropes for climbing, a mini observatory for stargazing, and a spiral ladder imprinted with educational factoids.

Available units

Studio units are available as the smallest cuts of 21 square meters. For those who prefer larger units, the one-bedroom starts at 39.6 square meters while the two-bedroom starts at 63.9 square meters. At an average price of P80,000 per square meter our customers a Commonwealth home within the P1.6- to P2-million price range, with a monthly amortization of as low as P8,000 a month and a unit reservation fee of P15,000.

To meet the demand of buyers who want bigger, standard living spaces, there will also be larger one-two bedroom units that range from 64 to 72 square meters worth P1 million and up. The lower price point offering is Century Properties' move to put forward products with its stamp of innovation in various markets and price points.

"It's also our way of telling home buyers that there is a Century home for each budget and preference for location," Antonio further added.

"On top of the basics, we offer great living spaces and added values that make community life worth the investment, from opportunities for social interaction and active lifestyles to a lot of peaceful and quiet moments. We are pulling out all the stops to bring the Century brand to Quezon City but at friendly prices," Antonio concluded.

ARTS and crafts room at The Residences at Commonwealth

Developer rewards Filipinos with leisure sanctuaries

By Theresa S. Santiago

THE IMAGINE flooding that recently wrought considerable damages in Metro Manila was more than enough to send anyone into panic, and into reviewing the structural integrity of their homes.

Understandable. After all, when you pour in much of your hard-earned pay and savings into a big ticket investment or a future, it is but proper to ensure that your purchase can provide that priceless comfort and high quality lifestyle.

Leading property developer SM Development Corp. (SMDC) couldn't agree more. In a statement, the company said it believes that the best reward every hardworking individual can get is the comforting thought that he or she can go home to an abode that will put both his or her mind and body at rest.

Much-needed respite

"SMDC, the country's No.1 condominium developer, delivers such environments to provide dynamic individuals and their families a much needed respite," said Nita Chaswell, senior vice president for marketing of SMDC.

And such a respite can be had at the Sea Residences, a luxury sanctuary located in the heart of Mall of Asia complex. Future residents can look forward to a life of ease and enjoyment as Sea Residences is unlike to of the residences of a perfect vacation spot with its prime mixed facilities.

SMDC glass homes/spaces only the best possible home.

FUTURE residents of SMDC projects can look forward to a life of ease and enjoyment.

This mid-rise residential complex, according to SMDC, integrates contemporary design with comfortable home furnishings and enticing community facilities that make it a truly perfect investment.

Another similar modern resort tower will soon be completed, following the success of the Sea Residences.

This resort type residential development has four mid-rise towers with executive leisure facilities—including an elegant clubhouse, multiple swimming pools and a jogging trail. Enough said.

"It's prime location to retail, dining and entertainment spaces, as well as academic institutions, make it an ideal spot for active individuals and growing families," she added.

Weekend home

Meanwhile, for those seeking respite outside Metro Manila, SMDC is now providing prospective buyers a "weekend home" in the cool City of Tagaytay with its Wind Residences.

Weekends after all should be spent far and away from the pressures of city life. Thus, having a country "home away from home" will make an out-of-town getaway a quick and hassle-free option.

"The cool climate, fresh breeze and abundant produce of nearby Tagaytay City make it a popular destination for day trips and extended weekends. Owning a second home in Wind Residences takes all the hassle out of holiday trip planning," Chaswell explained.

This condo title provides breathtaking views of the Taal Lake and is located just minutes away from the recreational areas and tourist attractions that Tagaytay is best known for.

Wind Residences also houses basketball and badminton courts and other fitness and leisure facilities that will keep residents staying active and healthy every vehicle on vacation.

SMDC has since continued to strive to be the "good guys" by earning the list of the whole Philippine real estate industry developers to recommend offerings of high quality, well-designed and affordable residential units.

Developers speak up on Metro's safety

Front page B3 >

the world, there are some areas that are geographically safer and some that are more vulnerable than others. In Metro Manila for instance, Marikina, Navotas and other coastal areas will always be on the receiving end of heavy downpours. In case of other natural calamities on the other hand, other areas need to be on the lookout more than others.

"So in the end, much of the usual after effects can be mitigated if not altogether prevented by carefully identifying vulnerable areas from planning and projecting according by behind, to be forewarned is to be forearmed. And this, obviously, is where government plays a very major role. But ultimately, the choice of where to build one's home rests on individuals over it, admirably, that choice is determined largely by one's economic condition," —Maricar M. Bonifacio, PVP-strategic planning division, Megaworld-Corp.

"Metro Manila remains to be a safe place to live in, but certain changes need to be made. Two things have become apparent. One, the city, with its current facilities, can only sustain certain density. The newer business districts within the city like Bonifacio Global City, Ortigas Center and Makati have better than the other parts of Metro Manila precisely because of their upgraded facilities and utilities and the exercise of responsible development of the business milieu. Two, we lack discipline. Tons of garbage were not dredging the drainage system, resulted adverse, and flooding along with other debris.

"We have to marry technology and discipline. I believe the following measures have to be adopted/implemented by the government: 1) Both the local government unit and the national government (through Metropolitan Manila Development Authority) should adopt a comprehensive garbage disposal system; 2) Upgrading of the metropolis' drainage system is of paramount importance. As the population in the urban area grows, our utilities should be improved. Some of the utilities were built in the '70s, when the urban population was much smaller; 3) Continuation of the rollout of the no plastic/styrofoam move already being implemented by some LGUs."—Industry player who requested anonymity

Turning disaster into a safe, sustai

By Theresa S. Samonings

IS METRO Manila still a safe haven for its residents?

When Tropical Storm "Ondoy" wreaked havoc across Metro Manila in 2009, destroying properties and claiming numerous lives, Filipinos had been settled in saying it was time to have to place a more comprehensive urban planning that will ensure the security of its residents.

World-renowned urban planner and architect Felino "Leo" Palafox Jr. even advocated then to former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo one of his recommendations, which Palafox said would not only help make Metro Manila less vulnerable to disasters, but could also help propel the Philippines into becoming one of the Top 20 economies in the world by 2020.

PALAFOX

Unfortunately, the aggressive thrust then in implementing 20 short- to medium-term projects—of which only two, according to Palafox, are implemented—seems to have slowed down as the government tended also to attend to the more pressing issues of poverty, security and so on.

Also, it was disconcerting though then to learn that an Ondoy-like disaster occurs only once in every 100 years.

"It's after only three years, the horrors of Ondoy have again overtaken us with a vengeance left a trail of destruction again in Metro Manila, with its torrential rains and monster flooding only this week—again putting to peril hundreds and thousands of people living in the metropolis. More importantly, this is yet proof that not much has been achieved in terms of urban planning.

Palafox however believes [illegible] can take to turn things around.

In an interview, [illegible] remains optimistic that Metro Manila will remain livable as the government gets [illegible] ones with our urban plan [illegible] to adapt to the [illegible] we have."

Third time

According to Palafox, [illegible] the third time, [illegible] to [illegible] flooding. "Instead of grey [illegible] that will not only [illegible] less vulnerable [illegible] like typhoons, flooding [illegible] quakes, but will also [illegible] sustainability of roads, [illegible] transport, utilities and [illegible] ings. The second time the [illegible] storms were forecasted [illegible] criticism was when [illegible] Aquino had just assumed [illegible] 2010.

"I'd like to offer the [illegible] (in urban planning) and [illegible] leaders will listen," he [illegible]

To make Metro Manila [illegible] rest of the Philippines [illegible] and sustainable, Palafox [illegible]

AILY INQUIRER

PERTY

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Developers speak up on Metro's safety

By Thenesh Jamalapu

[illegible] are not over! Metro Manila's capacity to bounce to maximize safety after a deluge of massive flooding and landslides, Inquirer Property polled a number of industry players on their thoughts on this matter. We likewise asked additional steps to what preparations and should be implemented by the government to prevent future scenarios similar to this and [illegible] Tropical Storm "Ondoy." Here are what they have to say:

"Manila is safe. It has been a capital city for centuries. Many capitals like Amsterdam and London have done wonderful things to mitigate flooding.

"It would be good to analyze the need to review the standards for use in 25-, 50- and 100-year storm occurrences. Climate change requires this review and larger storm detention areas must be allocated like in many advanced cosmopolitan."—Charlie Ayalin, president, The Bell Group and chair of ULI Philippines

"Metro Manila is still the most progressive part of the country and living in it is essential for the majority of Filipinos.

"We just need laws and regulations that will address the flood problem, eg the issuance, proper garbage disposal and the relocation of those who live in the flood-way. It's a matter of finding politicians with the will, influence and resources."—Monica Morales, corporate communications manager, Pro-Friends

"A comprehensive land use plan needs to be formulated and strictly implemented and sustained. Given the number of vulnerable areas as well as the very limited land area that we have, this plan's accuracy and urgency cannot be overemphasized.

"Within all metropolitan areas around

DEVELOPERS B4

ROADTALK Saturday

Wheels of generosity

By Jason Ang

Car companies, publications and car clubs band together to help flood victims

THE POSITIVE side of Philippine disasters is that it often brings out the best in some of our countrymen. These include selfless heroes such as policemen, firemen, members of the Armed Forces, and civilian volunteers, who risked their lives to help affected people from flood-stricken areas at the height of the torrential rain. Ordinary citizens and private companies also open their wallets and warehouses at times like these to donate relief goods to flood victims.

Today, Top Gear Philippines, in cooperation with Ortigas Home Depot and several car companies, will be organizing a relief drive for flood victims. The car companies are participating via use of their pickup trucks. Corporate Philippines with their Colorado, Isuzu Philippines Corp. (D-MAX), Mitsubishi Motors Philippines (Strada), Toyota Motor Philippines (Hilux) and Universal Motors Corp. (Nissan Navara). Top Gear is requesting unused goods, noodles, bottled water, blankets, towels, and underwear (no used clothes, please) to be brought to Ortigas Home Depot (at the leftmost side, near JP Morgan Chase Bank) in Pasig City. The goods will be donated to the Philippine Red Cross. Ortigas Home Depot is located along Julia Vargas Avenue (near corner Sikatuna Avenue) in Pasig City.

Top Gear will post photos of the donations and their cars on their website and Facebook page. They will also give a copy of a recent issue to every donor. For more details, donors may call +63 922 889 3410, +63 922 899 3410, or +63 922 842 8038.

Car club members are also giving their time and effort in mind-calamity areas to bring relief goods. One such organization is the Land Rover Club of the Philippines (LRCP). The group quickly mobilizers during disasters to deliver goods to evacuation centers, using their go-anywhere Land Rover vehicles. Recently, the group mobilized 10 vehicles and one truck to Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to assist some 500 families affected by the rains. The Land Rovers reportedly waded through 30 kilometers of water to reach their destination.

Tan Francisco of LRCP recounts, "The area was still underwater. The evacuation center in the area was waist-deep and there was only a small patch of dry area across the evacuation center, which we used as a staging area for off-loading of goods. Maneuvering the small flooded streets was hard due to the open manhole street side. Driving nearly but surely we were able to unload all the goods by 8:30 p.m. [of] Aug. 6."

Alex Llave of Arcy Cardenas generously donated fiberglass boats to the Philippine Army 15th Infantry Division-Ready Reserve. Using his expertise in fiberglass design and construction, Llave conceived of the project after the Ondoy disaster and is now glad to have the boats put into action.

Tales of selflessness of true fellow Filipinos keep the spirit during these times of crisis and encourage us all to likewise share our time and resources to help others out.

Isuzu PH delivers the best Alterra yet in the Urban Cruiser X

THE BEST Alterra has arrived. Isuzu Philippines Corporation's (IPC) flagship SUV model now boasts of even more premium features in its 2013 Isuzu Alterra Urban Cruiser X versions, offering the best value in the country's full-size SUV segment. With its new range of equipment, the model becomes an excellent choice for young professionals and entrepreneurs who are seeking for an SUV that carries an image of superiority and youthfulness.

The new features that the Alterra Urban Cruiser X received are intended to hit the beat in the vehicle's class, some from the best brands, and are aimed only for the best. Included in the model's Best Package is an entertainment system from Kenwood, which features a DVD/CD/MP3 audio/video head unit with a built-in 7-inch wide touch panel monitor, an iPod direct connection, integrated Bluetooth connectivity (CMPD) capability and an SD card reader. Powerful 240-watt front speakers with additional tweeters, and 200-watt rear speakers to ensure a true surround experience. Passengers in the back also get nine black, headrest-mounted, high-definition (LCD) monitors. The system has a sophisticated and seamless dealer option.

Also added to the latest Alterra version's interior are ebony black leather trim that are matched with black woodgrain accents, which give the exhibit a sophisticated and luxurious feel.

The 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X's exterior is likewise set apart by new creative features. Now are an elegantly-rugged front chin spoiler, a fog-lamp-inspired rear chin spoiler with reflector that complements the vehicle's looks; smoked headlamps that announce the Alterra's projector headlamps; redesigned highway garnishes that sport sharper edges; stepboard is coordinated in black; innovative yet functional rear spoiler with integrated high-mount LED stop lamps that have clear lenses, and smoked combination tail-light clusters with chrome accents. All these new features update the vehicle's premium styling, while the vehicle's new eye reverse mirrors and wide-range reverse camera (which displays images in the entire instrument system's touchscreen monitor), aid the driver in backing up parking spaces and other tight spots.

"The Isuzu Alterra has built a reputation for its combination of utility and luxury, of performance and fuel efficiency, of reliability and styling," IPC president Ryoji Yamasaki said. "In the 2013 Isuzu Alterra Urban Cruiser X, these attributes are enhanced as the model receives additional premium features, which are poised to set the standard in the full-size SUV class."

The Alterra's powertrain remains unmatched in the vehicle's latest version. Powering it is Isuzu's 4JJ1-TC (TEQ) 3.0-liter Diesel engine that complies to Euro 3 emission standards. Equipped with a turbocharger and intercooler, plus a common rail direct injection system, the engine produces 94hps and 294.8Nm of torque. On urban roads and rough terrain, ride comfort is ensured by the Alterra's independent double wishbone with coaxial-type springs and stabilizer bar front suspension, and Isuzu's patented Plus Ride MOVE suspension with semi-elliptical leaf springs with telescopic shock absorbers in the rear. Safety is addressed by Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Collapsible Steering Column, dual airbags, and seatbelts for all passengers.

Available in four-wheel drive with four-speed automatic transmission, rear-wheel drive with four-speed automatic transmission and rear-wheel drive with five-speed manual transmission, the 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X is offered in Starry Black, Mineral Grey and Silky Pearl White colors with optional pearl finish. Prices start at P1,328,000 for the automatic 4x2 MT and P1,349,000 with pearl option; P1,388,000 for the automatic 4x2 AT and P1,409,000 with pearl option; and P1,735,000 for the 4x4 AT and P1,756,000 with pearl option.

The 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X is now available in all IPC dealerships nationwide. In Metro Manila, Isuzu dealerships can be found in different locations, Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth, Pasig, Manila, Makati and Alabang. For the provinces, Isuzu dealerships are located in Subic, Pampanga, Cabanatuan, Pangasinan, Batangas, Cavite, Batangas, San Pablo, Bacolod, Iloilo, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, and General Santos. For more information, log on to www.isuzuphil.com.

BLESSING of the Hyundai Kasa ng Kabuhayan at Kalusugan Van, a Hyundai H-100 van which Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), through HARI Foundation, Inc., donated to support the UP Women Lawyers' Circle (WILOCI) Legal Assistance Program. In attendance were officers from HARI and UP WILOCI (from left) HARI president and CEO Ms. Fe Perez-Aguila, Pura Angelica V. Santiago, Fides Cordero-Tan, WILOCI incoming president Pina C. Tamano, officiating priest Fr. Andres Lerigo Jr., HARI AVP for government relations Hinda Hosaka, former Supreme Court Justice Carolina Griño-Aquino, Ex-P. Bautista, Wilma F. Cua. Dolores Espaldon and Carly Monahan

Hyundai strengthens partnership with UP Women Lawyers' Circle

HYUNDAI Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) and the UP Women Lawyers' Circle (UP WILOCI) recently held the blessing and inauguration of the Hyundai Seminar Room and the Hyundai Kasa ng Kabuhayan sa Kalusugan Van which HARI, through HARI Foundation, Inc. donated to UP WILOCI, a professional organization of all women graduates of the University of the Philippines College of Law.

This donation is a testament to HARI's shared advocacy with UP WILOCI in safeguarding and enforcing the rights of Filipina women and children. HARI's earlier donation of seed money and a Hyundai H-100 van has significantly advanced UP WILOCI's Legal Assistance Program which covers counseling, research and consultancy work, case management, and legal literacy projects on various legal issues with emphasis on child abuse and violence against women.

HARI Foundation president and Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) president and CEO Fe Perez-Aguila summed up HARI's support of UP WILOCI, saying, "This is a tribute to strong women. We decided to support the leadership of WILOCI in championing the equality of rights for women and children. The assistance that we extend to them is our humble way of rallying for their cause. We look forward to institutionalizing this program as one of our organization's priority Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities."

WILOCI's outgoing president and current Board of Trustees lawyer Fides Cordero-Tan on the other hand expressed profound gratitude to HARI for its support, and commended the leading automotive firm's "conscious support of various cause-oriented, charitable and socially relevant undertakings that impact on the day-to-day life of the ordinary Filipino."

AVT navigation and multi-media devices showcased at 2012 PIMS

AVT, a Filipino company pioneering in vehicle navigational and media devices, will once again be showcasing a new range of products at the upcoming 4th Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS), to be held from Aug. 16 to 19, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

The latest model of the AVT personal navigation range, the AVT PN-504, will be launched at the event. Featuring a true high-resolution 5-inch (LCD) touchscreen, the AVT PN-504 is powered by the latest in the iN-V SIRMEB CPU with a built-in high sensitivity GPS receiver that is quickly able to acquire a GPS fix in 5 minutes. In terms of functionality, the AVT PN-504 also functions as a multi-media player (MP3/MP4/WMA/WMV/AVI/3GP), a photo viewer, and allows users to search on a calculator, calendar and unit converter.

Beyond these technical specifications, the utility of the AVT PN-504 lies in the pre-loaded Advanced Philippine Map exclusively developed by iNAV Unique to the AVT Navigator range is improved turn-by-turn navigation with (1) junction box mode, with an enlarged view of where you need to make the turn; (2) 3D junction view, as you get a 3D guide of which lane you should take; (3) 3D buildings, to provide landmarks for better location identification; and (4) speed camera, to warn of approaching speed cams and avoid speed violations. All AVT PN devices come with free updates for two years, so that you can update your maps with the latest changes in the country's road network.

While smartphones and tablets now offer mapping services, a dedicated navigation device such as the AVT PN-504 still offers advantages as you do not need to pay for a broadband data plan and do not have to worry about battery drain.

Exclusively for the 2012 Philippine International Motor Show, visitors to the AVT booth will be able to trade in their old navigation devices of whatever brand to receive very special discounts and freebies on various AVT PN models.

Vehicle owners who are concerned about security and safety may also take a closer look at the AVT iDSR, a portable tracking device that works on the GSM/GPRS network and GPS satellites. It can be used to track and monitor your vehicle and even has a built-in motion sensor so you can choose to be notified via text message if your vehicle is moved, or if it is towed, or if it is driven beyond a pre-set speed limit.

Vehicle owners who are concerned about security and safety may also take a closer look at the AVT iDSR, a portable tracking device that works on the GSM/GPRS network and GPS satellites. It can be used to track and monitor your vehicle and even has a built-in motion sensor so you can choose to be notified via text message if your vehicle is moved, or if it is towed, or if it is driven beyond a pre-set speed limit.

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TRICYCLE drivers experienced a simulation activity of "riding under the influence of alcohol "driving the 'Kasa'mission" goggles, participants were able to feel how alcohol impairs a person's balance, vision, reaction time, and judgement), shown are the PATODA drivers with the Sub-5 Kasa trainers (right) and outside guests, (from right-of-left) Road Heath, Safety Security, Environment (RSSE) manager Ray Isidro, Philippine Global Road Safety Programme (PGRSP) Secretary General Alberto Lozano, and Chair Edgar Milan of Brgy. 461 in Pandacan.

Keeping the road safe for Manila commuters

SHELL and its social arm – the Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. are working with a number of stakeholders in educating drivers to reduce road mishaps and promote a safety culture in communities where the company operates.

Road safety is one of the top priorities of Shell in the Philippines; hence it has given full support to programmes geared towards educating drivers on defensive driving. Shell's assistance is in support of the UN's Declaration of 2011-2020 as Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Close to 60 participants composed of public transport, truck and lorry drivers, and safety officers, had practical driving exercises and defensive driving workshops in Manila.

The modules focused on Road Behavior, Social Interaction on the Road, Car Control Skills like Steering Feature and Steering techniques, Following Distance, Road Edge Profiling, Techniques in Cornering and Turning, and Driver's attitude.

Another round of defensive driving programme was conducted for a large group of tricycle drivers. This was done in partnership with Safe-T Riders, an organization founded to educate motorists on road safety.

Hundreds of thousands of commuters in Manila depend on tricycle to ferry them from their destinations. As such, their lives literally depend on the driving skills of tricycle drivers.

Practical driving experiences

During the training, tricycle drivers reviewed the traffic rules and signs, and the Tricycle Regulatory Unit's policies, which govern all tricycle operations. Moreover, the drivers also experienced an 'alcohol simulation activity'.

Using fatal goggles, drivers experienced how alcohol impairs one's vision and balance. Safe tricycle driving is equated to three things: knowledge, skill, and right attitude, the drivers learned.

Since majority of public transport drivers in the Philippines did not have formal training on driving, Pilipinas Shell, along with their partner organizations, aims to educate more drivers through workshops and specialized training. "Keeping Manila safe is achieved in sponsorship and Shell is at the forefront as a key corporate leader pool," said Jaime Bautista, social performance advisor for Shell Pilipinas.

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CAMPI reps win PH's first road safety driving competition

SECOND placers Jake Flores (Autobuli) and PO3 Ricardo Capili (PNP-HPG) receive their awards from MMDA Director and Officer-in-Charge of Traffic, lawyer Tom Gonzales. CAMPI secretary general, Marina Concepcion and Nissan Motors Philippines, Inc. PR and governmental affairs manager Karla Tesoro with Drive City boss, Gat Reino and DJ H'Town of Wave 89.1.

A TEAM of top representatives from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) hosted nine other related teams in the recent Drive City kick-off last July 15.

The CAMPI host sponsored the entries from the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), Autobuli, Rotex.com, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Nissan Motor Philippines, Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), Safety Organizations of the Philippines (SOPI) and SMART Driving School.

"It's a huge recognition for a safety consultant like me," says Ramon Carmona, who won first place along with Albert Concepcion, another CAMPI. The pair won the top spot after their driving and navigation skills rated low in the country's first ever live-traffic driving competition based on safety.

Organized by Total (Philippines) Corp. as part of its campaign to promote road safety, Drive City took drivers through a technical route across Metro Manila, where they were given tasks that challenged their road safety skills. Unlike usual driving competitions that place emphasis on speed, Drive City focuses on courtesy, driving style, and safety.

"Safety is a commitment here at Total and in the country, road safety is, sadly, taken for granted. This is why Drive City aims to promote greater awareness on the importance of road safety and ultimately, strengthen our community of safe road users," says Mideo Espino, Total (Philippines) corporation manager for corporate communications.

In the Philippines, statistics from the MMDA and the PNP-HPG reveal that a total of 1,653 persons were killed, while almost 29,000 people were injured in the 80,800 road accidents recorded in 2011. In addition to this, road accidents have been ranked by the Department of Health (DOH) as the fourth top cause of death in the country next to heart disease, leukemia and cancer.

Following the success of Drive City's initial leg with government agencies and industry partners, Total is set to bring the revolutionary competition to the general public.

"Driving like a pro means driving safely" says Espino. "So we encourage every Filipino driver – both private and public – to bring their A-game on the road and conquer the streets of Metro Manila… one rule at a time."

Drive City is supported by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG), Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI), Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), Safety Organizations of the Philippines, Inc. (SOPI) and sponsored by Autobuli, SMART Driving School, Nissan Motors Philippines, Inc. with its online media partner, Rotex.com.

DRIVE City kick-off winners, namely, first placers Albert Joseph F. Concepcion (CAMPI) and Ronald Alain M. Carmona (CAMPI), second placers John Flores (Autobuli) and PO3 Ricardo Capili (PNP-HPG) and third placers SPO1 Jerry Asuncion (PNP-HPG) and Bombol Ricio (SMART Driving) with Total (Philippines) corporation manager for corporate communications Maine Espino (center).

THE ORGANIZERS, partners, sponsors and participants at the starting line of Drive City, the country's first live-traffic driving competition based on safety rather than speed. Organized by Total (Philippines) Corp. as part of its campaign to promote road safety, Drive City takes drivers through a technical route across Metro Manila, where they are given tasks that challenge their road safety skills.

TOTAL (Philippines) corporation manager for corporate communications Maine Espino (center) with the winners of the Drive City kick-off: first placers Albert Joseph F. Concepcion (CAMPI) and Ronald Alain M. Carmona (CAMPI), second placers John Flores (Autobuli) and PO3 Ricardo Capili (PNP-HPG) and third placers SPO1 Jerry Asuncion (PNP-HPG) and Bombol Ricio (SMART Driving).

A PARTICIPANT signals to his teammate while making our safety checks before heading out to compete in Drive City, the country's first live-traffic driving competition based on safety, rather than speed.

ONE OF the teams completes a Drive City challenge at the Total station in Newport. Drive City is a live-traffic driving competition focusing on safety rather than speed.

THIRD placers SPO1 Jerry Asuncio (PNP-HPG) and Bombol Ricio (SMART Driving) receive their awards from Mac Pastrana-Valdez, marketing supervisor of Autobuli and Marc Francis Gavino, general manager of SMART Driving at the Drive City kick-off, the country's first live-traffic driving competition held in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Suzuki partners with Phoenix Petroleum for 2012 National Drag Racing Championship

SUZUKI Philippines Inc. recently sealed a memorandum of agreement with Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc., the fastest growing independent oil company, who will be its main sponsor for the Turbo Suzuki Racing Cup and the Suzuki Race Wars 2012.

The Turbo Suzuki Racing Cup and Race Wars 2012, powered by Phoenix Cyclomax Motorcycle Oils, is Suzuki's effort to standardize drag racing rules in the Philippines and to protect the enthusiasts by giving them the proper avenue to do it.

This year's Turbo Suzuki Racing Cup and Race Wars will cover three categories—(1) the Suzuki Raider 150 Carguero, (2) the Suzuki Outlander 150 for category for the Suzuki Raider J, Raider Fiz, Shogun Fiz and Shogun R, and (3) Suzuki Scooter 110 is category for Vitz 115, Skydrive, Hayate and Step. Registration is free for all 1 qualifying legs to be held nationwide.

"Suzuki and Phoenix Petroleum is the first and not the last entity to commit its support to the noble advocacy of promoting safety among motorcycle users, we both believe in responsible riding and all this because we give premium to the human life. This partnership aims to establish a standardized set of rules in drag racing and to protect the enthusiasts," said Junzuki Uchida, Suzuki Philippines president.

SUZUKI Philippines, Inc. and Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc. seal their partnership for the 2012 National Drag Racing Championship. Present at the contract signing were Suzuki Philippines general manager for motorcycle sales and marketing division Eiji Kayabuchi; Suzuki Philippines managing director Carolina Calderon; Suzuki Philippines president Junzuki Uchida; Phoenix Petroleum chief operating officer Ramon Ang Guanzon; MVP for HR, brand, and external affairs lawyer Raymond Zarillo; and AVP for lubes and chemicals Alberto Alcid.

THE OBJECTIVE of the Suzuki-Phoenix partnership is to elevate the sport of Drag Racing by providing the enthusiasts the proper venue guided by the principle of safety and responsible riding.

Insurers, car owners better prepared this time

By Charles E. Bulos

WESTBOUND: the numerous motorhogged vehicles on television must be giving every motor insurance underwriter a serious case of not depressing some of the vehicles.

In the months following September 2009, the motor insurance industry gained a record P2 billion in car claims after the Ondoy, a figure expected to be overtaken by the Philippines.

Fast forward to August 2012. In a few days, those flood-soaked retrieved or flooded on TV will head to their respective dealers for repairs or checkup.

But the impact should be not as severe something as in the months following Ondoy considering the vehicle owners are now much more prepared. "It is already a common practice after Ondoy for vehicle owners to automatically seek protection against acts of Nature (Acts of God). While insurers will incur hefty payouts, banks have also begun to require Acts of Nature coverage for car loans," explained Michael Ballon of the Philippine Insurance and Reinsurance Association and president of Fortune General Insurance Corp.

3 instances

It should be remembered that before Ondoy owners who availed of comprehensive insurance only for policies that covered normal vehicular accidents, even damages as well as theft (car jacking). Rarely do these owners insure their vehicles against Acts of Nature.

In fact, it was estimated that 75 percent of all payouts Aware caused by typhoon Ondoy and Pepeng were uninsured for Acts of Nature.

The insurance costs does not come cheap, the cost is allegedly, as the amount is 0.5 percent of the vehicle's insured value per year. For a P1-million vehicle, this would translate to an additional P5,000 in insurance costs, on top of the already P10,000 comprehensive annual premium to be paid new auto.

Pricey!

While this may seem pricey, the memory of Ondoy—and the just concluded three days of torrential rains—should serve as a strong reminder that balance to consider Acts of Nature would result to either voluntary of total loss of their vehicle or shouldering of the cost of their repair.

"After Ondoy and Pepeng, vehicle owners become more aware of the need for insurance. In succeed, there was a significant increase in the level of purchases of Acts of God coverage because people saw what

A GENERAL view of residents walking along a flooded highway in Calauan town, Laguna province, east Manila on Aug. 9. 2012, as residents in the capital battled flooding for the third day. Philippine authorities appealed on Aug. 9 for help to prolong relief to nine million people affected by deadly floods in and around the capital, warning that torrential downpours were overwhelmed.

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HONDA

Keeping a keener eye (and nose)

By Charles E. Bulos

LOOKING for no-road-head vehicle to buy? Before you get attracted with its low sale price tag remember that a number of semi-damaged vehicles—as a result of the just concluded three-day onslaught of the monsoon rains—will find their way to the second-car market in the coming days and months.

While it is not illegal to sell a flood-damaged car as long as the buyer is informed, there are others sellers who may go to great lengths to hide the truth, including "washing" or forging the paperwork that it no longer identifies the vehicle as a total loss by an insurance company.

One should remember that a vehicle exposed to floodwater can impair the mechanical and electrical systems that control safety features such as anti-lock brakes, airbags, and even digitals.

Such problems lurking under the hood are not always obvious at first glance. In fact, it can take several weeks or even months for some hazardous issues to appear. If water or sand inside the city hits the engine or transmission, more expensive repairs could be expected down the road.

So how to spot a water-logged vehicle? Here are some hints:

• CHECK THE INTERIOR.—Examine the trunk, glove compartment, dashboard and beneath the seats for signs of mud, rust, silt or sand or well-defined line or watermark. A discolored, faded or warped upholstery and carpeting may be a giveaway although one should also watch out for newly-placed coverings that are meant to cover defects.

• CHECK ALL SOURCING LIGHTS.—As you the turn the ignition on, make sure all the warning lights inside (including the airbag, ABS indicator, and other gauges) are all lighting up in the dashboard. Moreover, check if all the headlights, turn signals including the wipers and interior are all working.

• CHECK ODOMETER.—Check the used car's odometer and see how many miles the car has driven. Generally a vehicle with about 80,000 may already be 10 years old).

• PLAY THE WINDOWS.—Since wet wires become brittle once they dry up (and could crack or fail at any time) make sure to check them under the dash.

• USE YOUR NOSE.—Take a sniff for presence of musty odors resulting from mildew.

• ALWAYS BRING YOUR TRUSTED MECHANIC.—Your mechanic should be able to notice anything out of place under the hood. Also, bring him as you test drive the vehicle so he may be able to spot any discrepancies.

• CHECK RECORDS.—Apart from checking the various records, Find Insure to visit the Land Transportation Office to check the car's record. One may also visit the office for repair information, for example, your LTO Vehicle MSC LTO in 2600 used aftermarket, you will receive an SMS containing the car's LTO records.

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Faces of hope

We'd like to call them heroes. But they don't like the tag. In fact, these people were reluctant to be interviewed. 'I'm not doing anything extraordinary,' Patricia Hizon said. "Nagtatrabaho lang ako," said Jeff Canoy. Marc Nelson said, "I didn't really do that much compared to others out there." But we think their stories need to be heard. They faced adversity with their choice of weapons—laptops, a well-equipped kitchen, a microphone, their voices, guts and good hearts. With so many other heroes who emerged as the rain fell, they provided light in the dark. They were the faces of hope during a disaster that didn't even have a name

Good guy Jeff

The news reporter chose to swim in floodwater because "I didn't want to take a seat away from the people who needed it"

By Pam Pasion

JEFF Canoy was celebrating his 26th birthday with "drunk friends" when the torrential downpour started. The rain refused to let up and there was no stopping it.

"We all received text messages from our bosses telling us to get ready to head out."

A reporter of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, Jeff was assigned to cover Malabon. So he headed to Barangay Tañong, his home. "When I received the assignment, it sounded simple. I didn't know that the city was [about to] go to [the...] had to take a ride with a delivery truck carrying tons of fish just to get to Muzon[illegible]. When I got there, my news crew turned to a Filipino National Police (PNP) official [illegible] was looking straight to Malabon."

While people were evacuating and seeking for safety, Jeff was headed toward the deep waters.

"It's part of the job. Heading to [illegible] is basically

SEE NEXT

Filling the gap

By Pam Pasion

In relief efforts, super mom Patricia Bermudez-Hizon refuses to stay on the sidelines

MARIKINA. "Mama" Bermudez-Hizon was very involved in the relief efforts during Ondoy in 2009.

This time, when the flooding started, Mama jumped to action again. "I knew I didn't want to just take a back seat. I wanted to help those in need and also help the men who worked [illegible]."

Mama, who impressively juggles her responsibilities as wife, mom of two, spokesperson, event host, TV host (Saturday Morning Live & Your Birthday Presents) and the head of Advocacy and Marketing for Mercator, refused to [illegible] be [illegible] the [illegible].

"I saw our [illegible] and people [illegible] never spoke to anymore. While I was going around picking up [illegible], I had my helpers [illegible] relatives we [illegible]."

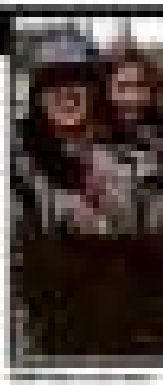
Then, she delivered food to a [illegible] barangay. She also brought [illegible] to be cooked.

[illegible] wanted to find a way to get the food across to Tumana.

MARIKINA C2

Good guy Jeff

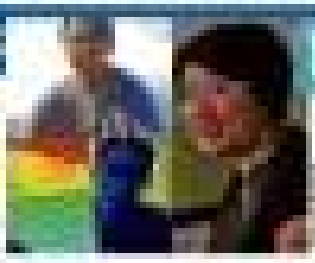
Model behavior



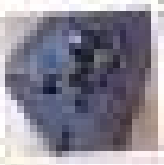
The Rock Ed formula

Filling the gap

Hashtag heroes



Cooking Mama



Suntrust Treetop Villas:

An affordable new alternative for Makati-based professionals

SUPER THERMOMETER

What's hot, what's not – in the face of calamity

The unsinkable Filipino spirit, heroes, hash tags and opportunistic politicians

Waterproof! The Ayala Museum launched a campaign called "The Filipino Spirit is Waterproof," which encouraged people to post to Twitter artworks inspired by the theme. Many responded, with submissions being sent every 30 minutes. These works of art can now be viewed on Ayala Museum's tumblr.com. If Ayala Museum decides to sell these fantastic works of art as postcards or posters for the benefit of those affected by the flood, we'd be the first in line to buy.

Twitter. The social networking site played an important role in relief and rescue efforts during the disaster. Because of Twitter, people were alerted, prodded to help, they knew where to go, where to send relief goods, who to rescue and which roads were flooded. There is a lot of power in 140 characters.

Thieves, looters and anyone who also took advantage of the calamity to do evil. There are reports of thieving and looting (no wonder people are reluctant to evacuate their homes), and, according to Malaya.com.ph, MPA details allegedly soldiers who were headed to affected areas to relocate for relief work abandoned only the bilao but the land and livelihood of people.

Wrong info. While it was great that people were using the Internet to spread news about the flood and relief efforts, the quick dissemination of information led to misinformation, including a dead 2011 Hyundai Tucson generator dying, FM-loving isolated and idiot photos from Ondoy being mistaken for new ones. There's a lesson to be learned here—verify, verify, verify. And click responsibly.

Heartbreakers. The gave heart evoker to these angered Filipino Facebook users when he posted this status on the social networking page: "Sana marelo na ang libolo na mga ng Filipinas... Hahaha. Ayos hanap na lang kita dito sa kapo sa Mindanao makikapagkaibigan... Hahaha. Ang init ng puso mo Grabe!" A screenshot of his post was gone viral and people headed to his Facebook page to express their displeasure. He has since issued repeated apologies, saying, "Please tell the whole people of Lanao my sorry for them. I really don't mean it... SORRY guys...My millions of sorry..." Some Facebook users have branded him as the "hottest the century."

Heroes and volunteers. Rescue teams, police and hospital workers went above and beyond the call of duty to come to the aid of those in need, logging in long hours and eating cold food when comforts and even safety to serve other people. Volunteers exuded no fear, springing to action even as the disaster was still unfolding. They braved the dirty rain water and the flooded streets to get to relief centers, to cook meals, to pack goods, to get people to safety, to let the hapless know they weren't forgotten. Those who couldn't leave their homes raised their dreams and pennies for the things they could donate and used the Internet to disseminate important information. Donations have been given and pledges have been made even by people outside the country. We wish we had all these names to use to call heroes them. They are all heroes.

The Filipino Spirit. It really is unsinkable.

Some 17,000 Bicol residents risked hunger to send food to flood victims. And not only that, they also donated clothes. That warm-hearted news is heartening in the middle of the disaster. It speaks of the willingness to help from the hardest hits, the rest of us don't have an excuse.

Calamity hilarity. Lost in the midst of this crazy weather, we found reasons to chuckle. Like when Pagasa hydrometeorologist Claudette Loyola referred to one of its team reports (yes, reports, um, it) Mayor Alfredo Lim's Twitter exchange with a disbeliever. "I declare disaster/w suspended tomorrow, Aug. 8. #JKJ, feels both public and private," @bonvale replied. "WALA NANG BAHAGHARI!" And the Mayor replied, "@bonvale wala ka." Then there's Mayor Lim's meme. And that photo of Michael Phelps swimming in Manila floodwaters. And that Ate Rosel meme. It's good to know that bad weather cannot dampen Pinoy humor.

The flash connection. We were wondering why German B.O.—12 became a Twitter trending topic in the middle of the heavy rains. A quick Bibliotheck showed that these verses were part of the passage about Noah's ark. People spent a lot of energy connecting the Bible verses to the day's 288-9/11-ing themselves and others in the process. They should have just spent that energy doing what they can to help others.

God's wrath? People campaigning against the RH Bill insisted to see the terrible flood as God's way of backing up their arguments: "The flood is a message from God", "God is expressing His wrath." Then there's Ai Ai delas Alas, who posted this on Facebook: "Sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo...kung sobrang awa...tiisin ang sobrang kirot na magkaroon ng huling sandali ng buhay ang #YOLANDA VICTIMS. #Memes. And also tired of rush. Why are people using this calamity to push their agendas? The only agenda we should be pushing now is kindness.

Opportunistic politicians. They moved their ugly heads during Ondoy and now they're back again. Politicians who love plastering their names and faces on relief goods, officials who think of relief efforts as just another photo-op, public servants who treat trips to the most affected areas as a moviecrush. Have they no shame? Yes, it is still the time to be campaigning. We're disgusted and we're not the only ones. Netizens have created a special hashtag just for these opportunistic politicians. "#wak." #Ba'dilor is a popular another hashtag. "#kalbo."

Inbox/ incontributors to the Super Thermometer? E-mail us at superthm@yahoo.com.ph.

EPIC moment Iconic history The Smashing Pumpkins braves through Philippine monsoon rains to stage a successful show. PHOTOS BY ROEL AMAZAN

Dampened spirits notwithstanding, the iconic '90s alternative band gives an astonishing 2-hour performance amid flooded metro

By Angelo V. Ignacio
Lifestyle Editor

WE POSE right to be apprehensive at the idea of insidiously expectant faces, one could tell that thoughts of the ongoing calamity weighed heavily on everyone's minds.

Frontman Billy Corgan's thoughtful remark on behalf of the band and his merciful charge to date from August 7 to 8 offered some comfort, but we couldn't help expecting the worst.

Some, like me, took advantage of the brief window periods and headed to the concert.

Others waded through flat tire waters and uninpired through relatively accessible roads just to get to the venue.

But even then, based on the several posts and complaints on #Oberpass, a good number of fans were still unable to make it. (Others were uncomfortable since the show had not been cancelled.)

People showed up, as did the band. The show must go on.

What a show it turned out to be.

There are several compelling reasons the Manila leg of the American '90s alt-rock band's tour is special.

One, they pulled off a successful show as a comeback (summon to the country's capital).

Second, the band had stretched to as to nearly 30 songs over two hours which, if we're not mistaken, is the longest Pumpkins concert in history.

Third, for this world tour, the band is bringing a careful mix "new" and "old" songs, plus played an album—"Oceania"—in its entirety which is largely unheard of in the economic jet.

For the first half, the band played all 12 tracks from the new album while the audience looked on, whether they were tickled by the dreamlike melodies or mesmerized by the stunning globe-dropped backdrop, we couldn't really tell.

But this arrangement was actually a smart move. It gave us an uninterrupted moment to soak up the Pumpkins' new sound, which was completely alien yet oddly nostalgic.

From the last, frantic bruise of the opening songs "Quasar" and "Panopticon," to the surprisingly optimistic synth sounds of "One Diamond, One Heart," to the haunting melodies of the title track and keyboards-driven "Wildflower," Corgan's vocals were unmistakable and ageless. One has commented, "Now I know why there's no opening act, Billy just cannot be bothered!"

'Blast from the past' set

As if waking up from a dream, the crowd metamorphosing drifted to the background as the sound of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" ushered in the second wave.

This "blast from the past" act was a veritable, fist-pumping jukebox of Pumpkins hits that served as the soundtrack to our growing up years.

They began with the same as-such track "I.V.U." from the epic double-disc "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness," and soon enough, all eyes and worries melted away in the frenzy.

The back-to-back sweeping anthems "Tiberius" from "Siamese Dream" and "Tonite Reprise" segueing into "Tonight, Tonight," plus a rare performance of the seven-year ballad "Luna," left everyone breathless and teary-eyed with nostalgia.

We even caught the look of disbelief and delight on guitarist Jeff Schroeder's face as the crowd hastily sang lines of everyone's favorite nostalgic track "Bullet With Butterfly Wings" back to them, loud and clear and a cappella. Yep, that's the famous Pinoy sing-along power right there.

By then, Corgan had begun to converse with the crowd more. Apparently, the frontman's jibes and flattery were meant only for the audience, for it made for an entertaining banter with his bemused bandmates.

His cheeky spiel at seeing the ladies in the audience with "front and rear" ended on a funny note when he commented that bassist Nicole Fiorentino, who looked like a vision in a red dress and badass guitar, was just so beautiful as the Filipinas... Only, she's a bit amazed by stream of her being a member of The Smashing Pumpkins. "This is where I get in trouble on YouTube," he added sarcastically amid a chorus of boos and bemused laughter.

Upon asking the crowd if there was anyone who was born in 1987 onwards, he was met with more boos and laughter.

Chuckling, he appeased the crowd by saying that all we just seen were true Pumpkins' fans, people logically old enough to love back then during the band's inception. (It's amusing to note that with that statement, Corgan effusively excluded his own drummer, Mike Byrne, who's only 22!)

The current contributor certainly did more than hold up their own. They made both old and new songs their own, and Corgan actually looked comfortable playing up there with them.

As far as we know first-timers were concerned, it's a good, solid show. We just hopefully can the old tunes with Corgan's ailing creative tenacity to rest.

Little did everyone know, the real surprise was about to begin as the end of the set.

After playing the final song, the melancholic "Today," the band came back to play a whopping seven-song encore as the band's way of thanking those who were able to make it to the concert. From then on, the crowd was wild and unstoppable.

Indie staples "Zero," "Ava Adore," "Cherub Rock," and "Mayfly" were joined by all-time popular favorites "1979" and "Disarm" from "Siamese Dream" and "Bullet With Butterfly Wings" back to "Oceania," which encompassed the entire night, ending with "Thirty-Three."

The surreal set ended with a sensational cover of Radiohead's "Karma Police," with the church-laced Byrne surprising us by lurking on the part.

Dampened spirits, seemingly, the concert put us on an indescribable high. We believe that no one could have possibly foreseen the magnificent night, even though reality cut back to us soon as we stepped out of the big house.

For the legions of loyal Pumpkinheads that night, it was well worth the wait, effort, money, and maybe also the risk of catching the flu or leptospirosis from wading in floodwater.

Pitchers a-droolin, the thoughts and prayers of everyone present went out to the victims of the calamity. But at the same time, we are most immensely thankful for being given the opportunity many had been waiting for for decades.

Thank you, Billy, Jeff, Mike and Nicole, for giving us the most "perfected" experience, all things considered. Hopefully, you'll really be able to come back to Manila for the sake of those who weren't able to make it.

"The Smashing Pumpkins: Oceania Tour" Live in Manila" was presented by Little Axe, Rainier Standard Vodka, FOX, and Blackmagic Management International.

LIFE ST

My Kikay has truly gone 'kikay'

By Alyn B. Honasan

SOCIAL networking sites are" This was the general reac- tion when friends and family

Dogs (and cats, and fish) are welco in this luxury serviced apartment in city—some posh 'staycation'

Thelma Rivera San Juan

YLE Travel

My Kikay has truly gone 'kikay'

From page B1

learned I was taking my three-year-old dog, an Air Pin sired Kikay, on a weekend "staycation" in one of Manila's poshest luxury serviced apartments.

Indeed, Kikay has come a long way from the rescues, mangy mutt we found on the street in May 2009, now was only fitting that she experience more of the good life.

I've been on staycations... that's how we call quick getaway weekends in luxury hotels right in the middle of the city, when you want to disappear for some pampering without the hassle of serious travel. But the prospect of actually bringing my baby with me was enough to get me all excited.

That, and other indulgences that come with five-star service, like in-room dining, plush beds, and my personal favorite — the bathroom that just begs you to soak in the tub. I mean, who has the time to daily this?

It all started when Look Magazine, Inquirer's glossy fashion and beauty mag, shot a fabulous spread of gorgeous models and their beloved dogs for our July-August issue, now out at selected magazine outlets. (The pictures here were gone viral on Facebook!)

When the magazine staff learned that Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalg Center Manila, part of Oakwood Asia-Pacific and Oakwood Worldwide, the largest chain of luxury serviced apartments in the world, was genius enough to invite me and my baby to stay in the shoot's location.

"Why not bring Kikay here for a weekend?" invited Oakwood Manila's PR and marketing communications manager Ann "Nini" Medellin, herself a true-blue dog person...Ms. Jess Friend Stritch is an eight-year-old pug.

The fact that our canine favorite subjects were so fabulously behaved in their staterooms was added encouragement.

Quite less much to show off, anyway. Aside from a new downloadable app loaded with info on the property's neighborhood, and an ongoing "Bargain of the World" food festival at the chique Oakwood Cafe Espa, I'll be remember that Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalg was recently awarded a 2012 Certificate of Excellence by Trip Advisor, the Supply Inquirer, cell-it-like-it-is Entertainment online travel service where travelers go for honest advice.

Fine print

That's how Kikay and I ended up checking in one rainy afternoon into a gorgeous one-bedroom apartment with a view of Ortigas Center.

Dogs, cats, and fish are allowed here, but its for sure, the rules of responsible pet ownership apply, so go through the fine print of the pet agreement before you book.

There's a limit to the number of animals you can bring in, as well as the size; no dog over 75 lbs is allowed, so you have to leave the Great Danes at home.

A deposit and a cleaning/disinfecting fee are required in case your pet trashes the place like a rock star, and yes, you will be accountable in case he or she makes too much noise or sulks the corner.

Don't send your pet's reservation certificate, and a picture in case you've dumb enough to lose your animal and the staff has to help you search. Place it — losing a pet is almost always the fault of the owner, really.)

Once you sign that longer-than-usual agreement, and your pet's stats are quite enlightened and reservations almost taking the dog out for a potty walk along the many landscaped courtyards and open areas, Kikay and I immediately found an empty, grassy parking lot right across the building, and yes, she was on a leash at all times outside the room, and we picked up after her and disposed of her litter properly.

Pets are allowed to pass through the lobby, but not in other public areas, so it's really all about cooperating with your animal. Now, Oakwood wants to cap into the local market of weekenders who want to bring their families and pets along.

The basics were common enough for us to play fetch with Kikay's toys. I recommend the privacy, in-room dining so you don't have to leave your baby and the dishes come in humongous portions to share (we're another person, or, since you dog—hey, Kikay was on vacation, too).

Noteworthy are menu items that are marked as "healthy fare, minimally processed to retain high nutritious values."

That's just one of the rare, do some work, and practice some yoga in the spacious apartment while Kikay dozed off on the couch after eating like pig. There's a gorgeous pool upstairs in case you want to leave your pet and dash out for a swim, though.

Heating dog food

The fully-equipped kitchen is big enough for you to cook anything, reheat, in my case, was limited to heating dog food in the microwave oven. I did take a peek at the popular Sunday Buffet from Oakwood's Cafe, with its live cooking station, great array of food, and, yipes, glass of bubbly—how's that for a happy Sunday?

I also highly recommend an in-room massage courtesy of Oakwood's Paradisus Royale Spa. Masseuse Cicely came to and gave me a great facial, complete with herbal coconut oil.

Because Kikay tends to get possessive when someone steps into her space, I had to book her out of the bedroom temporarily, until she got used to the new person.

Fortunately, the pet-friendliness is international: the Oakwood staff know your animal by name, and they keep a respectful distance until Kikay had relaxed, which is exactly how you are supposed to approach an animal you don't know.

Really, though, a staycation is about "me" time — snatching minutes, TV taking long baths, and catching up on emails saved for me. Having a loving, cuddly companion along was a delightful bonus. By the time our stay was over, Kikay was sleeping more than I was.

Every time I found Kikay sigh in utter pure animal love Jess flats were that, since our pets have such about love, we have to fill their time on earth with "perfect days" that celebrate the bond we share with them

Grizzly bears 'invade' HK Disneyland

Pinoy talent in Hong Kong Disneyland

Alexandra Ramos and Eric Lavendia

MEET ELAINE Margaret Reyes Lavendia and Eric Kevin Lavendia—they're just two of over three million visitors to Hong Kong Disneyland.

Lavendia, 25, has been with Disney for seven years. She performs the principal role of Ariel Doll in the "Festival Of The Lion King" show in HKDL Entertainment.

"I grew up here," said Lavendia, who started her dance career at 10 with HKDL as pioneer dancer.

Lavendia had moved just a few days before she was 18, and was enjoying school life only when she enrolled to dance at the University of the Philippines College of Music.

Soon after started dancing for Disney, Lavendia has taken on different roles, and even got the chance to work in Disneyland Paris for two and a half years. She moved back to HKDL on her return to home.

At Ariel Doll, she appears in the scene where Simba and Nala sing "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," performing a variety of aerial moves. Dressed in an angelic white costume, she appears on "fly" over the coral reef stage, adding to the event's romantic ambiance.

Married for three years with HKDL fellow cast member, the experience is like another honeymoon for Lavendia.

The busiest week of the Filipino fly squad performer starts on 11-9 jumping aside. "It will take us weeks to watch a footage and see one of the guest's different poses. As Nala's captain, Simba, he guards the safety of other dancers and has a say in the time the performance will be stopped.

"My job is all about performing and making people happy," he said.

"It's the Disney culture," added Lavendia. "They're very friendly they care about you and your career growth. Even they are your potential, they give you a chance."

Annette S. Ilagan

From page B3

...ts construction site, now gets an occasional stopping of trains from nearby geysers.

"We've conducted showers in the ride, like the Hurricanes in Disneyland and the Tsunami, that we've never done in other Disney rides," said Ali Rahnemoun, Grizzly Gulch resident director.

The whole area took around five years to complete, from many developments in design and production. Rahnemoun said full team of designers took inspiration from the landscape of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in northern California.

Rahnemoun said it was a challenge to recreate such a Western environment. Sierra Nevada is also home to over 2,000 species of plant trees—the heavily tree, "We had to make adjustments and implementations to recreate this kind of landscape."

Grizzly Gulch's engineers worked on concrete to making authentic looking rocks. Big Grizzly Mountain, which...

"We looked at the core of the Disney DNA, and part of it is a Natural-life feel," said Rahnemoun, who has been with Disney Parks and Resorts for 14 years. "It's rooted in the traditional Disney story of prospecting and luck."

MORE STO...

TOURS Leisure & CHOW

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Marry me at Marriott: a grand wedding fair

TO PAY tribute to the brand's long standing commitment in making every dream wedding happen, Marriott Manila is organizing its first and upscale wedding fair event of the century, Marry Me at Marriott: A Grand Wedding Fair.

Happening on Aug. 25 to 26 at the Grand Ballroom, this two day event is also made possible by August Bobbie Brown, Rustic Bar Beauty Source, Bernat's Weddings and Beyond, Lab Series, and Shiganawild.

Must-visit booths include Ramon's Chic Beauty Source, Bobby Brown, Lab Series, Jaguar, Megaworld, Smart Shot, Golden Hills Jewelry, 2177, Floral Creations, Sugarbun, Tom Jewel, Imagine Nurses, For You Are Mine Wedding Films, Wagon, White Impressions, DB Photographics, CB Mars, Jorge's Parwork, Splendid Specialties, and Wally Gonzales Photography.

Marriott Manila also proudly brings Jessie Epperson, the premier celebrity stylist and head creative of Fashion + Food to the mix up every couple's excitement on starting a new life together in style.

Couples can enjoy the opportunity of availing the Look and Love promo, wherein those who will book their weddings from Feb. 22, 2013 to Dec. 30, 2014 can instead on a P6,000 worth of gift certificates and P6,000 Marriott rewards points.

Frederick Peralta, VJ Florencia, Paul Cabral, Penny Serrano, James Reyes and many more will showcase their wedding gowns and tuxedo creations on Aug. 26 as "I" p.m. modeled as host chair by the Philippines Models Association of the Philippines.

For inquiries or reservations, call 988-9999.

Shangri-La launches new website to improve trip planning, share group photos

SHANGRI-LA Hotels and Resorts has unveiled a revamped website that will allow travellers to experience the world's most enchanting destinations even before their journeys begin. Enhanced features, which include sharing the best of the group's photographs, will help travellers get closer to their destinations. To commemorate the new site, Shangri-La will launch the "#LivingTheBrand" Instagram initiative to encourage everyone to share photos of their location. For travellers who prefer to access Shangri-La.com while on the go, tailor-optimized mobile versions of the site have been created for iPhone, Android and Blackberry users. Now, no matter how people connect to the website, they will have access to all the features that Shangri-La has to offer online. To make booking days for frequent travellers easier and more convenient, Shangri-La will be launching a mobile application for iPhone and iPad users at the end of June.

Get your third night free at Holiday Inn's Galleria valid until Dec. 30

HOLIDAY Inn Manila Galleria is giving your third night stay for free when you book for three consecutive nights valid until Dec. 30, 2012. This offering includes buffet breakfast for two at the restaurant and complimentary welcome drinks for two at Bar One. And kids stay and eat for free. Advance reservations are recommended and are subject to room availability, and other terms and conditions. For inquiries and reservations, please call Holiday Inn Manila Galleria at 633-7111 or e-mail higm.reservations@ihg.com.

Asian night buffet fit and happy hour at classy The Oriental Legazpi

SOMETHING to look forward to for the month of August would be the "Asian Night Buffet" every Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the "Happy Hour" daily from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at The Oriental Legazpi in Legazpi City. The Millard T. Lee, president and CEO of The Oriental Hotels and Resorts, dedication to brand value poured way to the local and international elite to initiate spa and be the core total of unforgettable experience. Indeed, The Oriental Legazpi is very determined to provide personalized and excellent service to customers with consistency and class. As a matter of fact, Queen Sofia of Spain vacationed here experienced the heat and hearty lunch it not for the birthdate of the management and staff of The Oriental Legazpi.

The Accott celebrates Singapore's 47th National Day with special rates

THE ACCOTT Linked in the Philippines celebrates Singapore's 47th National Day with special rates for booking and stays until Aug. 31. Enjoy 1 Upstream off best available rates at Accott Makati, Somerset Millennium Makati and Somerset Olympia Makati and experience why business travellers around the world call our serviced residences their home away from home. Book online at www.the-accott.com and use the preferred code "PROMO" to avail of the promotion rates. For further information and reservations, call (02) 3230 duo88, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Capitol and Limited, is headquartered in Singapore. A pioneered Asia Pacific's first international class serviced residence in 1984. In 2008, it established the world's first Pan-Asian serviced residence mall named Somerset Xinti Road, Accott Residence Road. Today the company boasts a 38-year industry track record and award-winning serviced residence brands that enjoy recognition worldwide.

Spices and tempting slices of Singapore living at Dusit's Basix

DUSIT Thani Manila welcomes another diverse and delicious blend of culture and cuisine as it joins the celebration of the Singaporean National Day Buffet All-Day Dining Restaurant, in partnership with Mövenpick Ambiente Orchard Singapore and Celsius Pacific Air, taking part in the festivities with a sumptuous Singaporean Food Festival from Aug. 6 to 15.

To spearhead the kitchen in preparing authentic Singaporean dishes is the award-winning guest executive sous chef Low Thiau Hoong from the world-renowned Chatterbox of Mövenpick Ambiente Orchard, home of the top-rated Hainanese Chicken Rice in Singapore.

Avail the lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for P1,500 net per person, and the dinner buffet from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at P1,850 net per person. Beverages including soft drinks, chilled juices and local beer, are unlimited. The infamous Singapore Sling is also available à la carte.

Known for a series of successfully staged international culinary and cultural festivals, Basix All-Day Dining Restaurant is located at the ground floor of Dusit Thani Manila and is open 24 hours daily. For inquiries and reservations, call 230-8888.

UNFORGETTABLE ASIAN FLAVORS AT RICHMONDE CAFÉ

THIS August, Richmonde Café transports all foodies and gourmands to a sanctuary of familiar flavors for one whole week. Capturing unforgettable tastes and spices, from Chinese to Korean, Indian to Thai, and Malaysian to Vietnamese, this dining experience will definitely satisfy the palette of every Asian-cuisine enthusiast. Asian Flavors Week is available from Aug. 13 to 17 for lunch buffet, and on Aug. 17 for Friday dinner buffet for only P995 nett and P895 nett, respectively. For inquiries and reservations, please call 638-7777 or call Richmonde Cafe at 889-8419. Richmonde Hotel Ortigas is located at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Sugarleaf hosts Forzado's free chia superfood talk on Aug. 25

MARTINY Choices by Sugarleaf launches the first of a series of free workshops promoting its partners in health and wellness with Forzado's chia talks on Aug. 25, Saturday 2:30 p.m. at Sugarleaf's Kalayaan Street, Greenhills branch. Founder and CEO David Hidalgo shares his in-depth knowledge of this ancient superfood; this, because of a wealth grown in South America that is a treasure trove of many valuable nutrients and fiber. Limited seats are available so reserve early. Contact Angelic on (0917) 853-9850 or e-mail angelic@sugarleaf.com. Healthy Choices by Sugarleaf, is located at the GF Health Cube Building, 220 Wilson Street, West Greenhills or San Jose Barkwater Mall Cubao and BGC. For more information, call 280-0287 or visit www.sugarleafph.com. Like on Facebook Sugarleaf Foods. Thai tourism for updates of schedule of learning activities.

Pantoja
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BIGG'S
DUNKIN' DONUTS

High-end travelers prefer hotels with green practices

AN UNLIKELY group of travelers may push hotels and resorts, especially in Asia, to adopt more sustainable practices. According to Mike Terrill, whose firm provides guest amenities to top resorts in the Philippines, luxury travelers are now providing the impetus for key brand players to go green.

The owner and president of Hotel and Spa Essentials cites "The Future of Luxury Travel: A Global Trends Report" published in 2011 by the leading trade show for the global luxury tourism industry. It explains that after the global financial crisis, luxury travelers realized the increasing need for environmental care, simplicity and authenticity.

"Gradually, luxury travelers have understood the principles of sustainable development, including environmental care and socially responsibility."

A similar 2011 study by Euromonitor International reveals that hotels worldwide are realizing that sustainable practices are not purely from the luxury as well as the budget segments. "All things being equal, the guest will choose the hotel that supports sustainable practices over the hotel that does not," the report says.

The Eastern Uniform series manages to persuading resort and spas to the country to cut shampoos, body washes, lotions and other bathroom amenities packaged in biodegradable plastics.

The need for these products is pressing, to state. The plastic ware in the landfill in Metro Manila is so much so that researchers believe 139 and 209 tons per year.

Until recently, the most economic option for hotels was to package their bathroom accessories in recycled plastic.

Nevertheless, new UL technology now allows an additive called Ecopure, a registered trademark, to accelerate the biodegradation process in plastic products through the help of microorganisms present in landfill environments.

ECOFRIENDLY products at right, Mike Terrill with ecologically friendly amenities

Study reveals how the travel market is more and more conscious of the environment

Breaking down plastic

Terrill, who has a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Hamburg, Germany, in the UK, points out that Ecopure disintegrates the entire material from cotton to plastic. Through the introduction of moisture, the plastic, it secretes and initiates the growth of microorganisms that feed down the plastic into water, methane and bacteria, which can be used as fertilizer. Plastic shampoo bottles that would take over 450 years to biodegrade can now do so at a much faster pace.

Hotel and Spa Essentials distributes several ranges of guest amenities like soaps, hair and body wash, and accessories like shower caps, dental and shaving kits. These from Concept Amenities based in Australia proudly display a logo indicating that its packaging is biodegradable in landfill.

The products are priced competitively against those in regular plastic. Terrill says that Hotel and Spa Essentials can deliver as little as a single carton of the products to cater to smaller hotels and resorts.

Another green product being pushed by Hotel and Spa Essentials is a guest towel that dries 30 percent faster than ordinary towels. "The means 30 percent less energy is used to dry the towel. If you are selling up a new hotel and you decide to use Ecofast towels, you can buy 30 percent less drying capacity, leading to an equivalent reduction in fixed asset investments," he says.

The towels are also uniquely made so they don't smell and it by smelly at the edges. Consequently, they last two to three times longer than regular towels.

Terrill, who can be reached at info@luxuryhotelpracticals.com, echoes a study finding that more and more guests these days are using up resorts according to their bathroom experience there. "Guests like to feel spoiled so they go through their grooming rituals, especially when they are traveling."

Bath towels and green bathroom amenities that can be disposed of in a more dignified way make a difference. (As email, bl 08/08/12.)

SEAIR waives rebooking charges for passengers affected by recent floods

SOUTH EAST Asian Airlines (SEAIR) announced that it is waiving rebooking charges for passengers affected by the recent heavy rains and floods.

Passengers who were originally scheduled to travel on Aug. 7 to 8 may rebook their flights free of charge to any date from Aug. 9 to 15. Flight schedule is subject to seat availability.

To avail of the free rebooking, passengers may call the SEAIR Hotline at +632 849 0200 or visit the SEAIR office at 2nd Lee Center Building, 1000 Aurora Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) corner Makati Avenue, Makati City; Manila International Airport, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 4, Pasay City; and Unit 166 SM City Clark, Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ), Clark Field, Pampanga.

SEAIR offers flights from Clark to Kalibo, Boracay, Singapore, Kota Kinabalu and Hong Kong. It has recently embarked on its largest network expansion ever to seven cities domestically with flights from Manila to Cebu, Davao, Tacloban, Iloilo, Puerto Princesa, Kalibo (Boracay) and Bacolod.

SEAIR uses Airbus A319 and A320 aircrafts, which can accommodate up to 180 passengers per flight.

For more information and to book your next flight, visit www.flyseair.com or www.flyseairways.com.

Grizzly bears

From page B1

More rainy day surprises

HBDA had other rainy day surprises. Mickey's Waterworks Parade splashed and sprayed guests with environment-water.

Characters such as the Toy Soldiers from "Toy Story" had water guns, and weren't shy about squirting them on guests' faces. Halloween-themed "Disney The Big Bad Wolf, Pinocchio, Mickey Mouse Goofy and Chip 'n' Dale donned already-drenched guests.

There was also the Rainy Day Parade, which brought around the park the Disney Princesses, Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Woody and other characters in a train, to keep them safe and dry.

A chef from Ooni, the developer island we're guests in a small corner at Tokyo-related the Animation down performance, who were dressed like the park's cleaning crew. The duo used simple cleaning implements — a tin pail, brushes, large plastic bags — to play some groovy beats while dancing. Drenched audiences, they.

Soon after, though, the rain encounter fell again, which cut the performance short and dispersed the crowd of revelers.

But, really, when you're in Disneyland, a little rain can't dampen your day.

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Travel Briefs

Free suite at Raffles

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has relaunched its A380 Suites promotion.

Passengers who fly roundtrip in one of SIA's A380 Suites are in behind hand 30-night in-person free overnight suite accommodation at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore.

Aside from the free one-night stay, passengers can take advantage of luxurious amenities including limousine service, spa or bed breakfast at the Tiffin Room, a complimentary Raffles Hotel room key chain and a 20 percent discount on a spa treatment at the Raffles Spa.

The Suites is by select cities exclusive to SIA's A380 aircrafts. Each SIA A380 Suite is a private cabin outfitted with features top-of-the-line in-flight amenities and services, including full-sized beds and designer furnishings.

Visit Singapore.com, call tel. 7338888 or contact your travel agent to book a SIA A380 Suites ticket now.

Manor gets award

TRAVEL site TripAdvisor has given The Manor at Camp John Hay its 2012 Certificate of Excellence award.

The award is given to establishments for excellent hospitality as TripAdvisor travelers from across the globe.

The Manor at John Hay has had TripAdvisor's Camp John Hay has been consistently commended with the highest praise by TripAdvisor travelers, having received an exceptional achievement of 4 rating, for its world-class amenities and impeccable service. The TripAdvisor website says that approximately 10 percent of accommodations listed on its site receive the said award.

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Vacation at Plantation Bay

PLANTATION Bay Resort and Spa on Mactan Island, Cebu, offers vacation packages for breakfast.

The resort has 11.4 ha of secluded grounds that recreate one of the clean-elegance and laidback life on a colonial plantation.

It has exclusive lagoons and freshwater pools for swimming. Activities for kids are fish-feeding and sand-castle building.

Plantation Bay now offers a private dive and beach for honeymooners. "Ideal beach and reefs access is available at the honeymoon island villa, where one can have a floral bath or a Jacuzzi.

One can also get an invigorating massage by the water falls or by candlelight at Magnolia Springs, which is built like an 18th century Japanese village.

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SATURDAY Special

SPARKLE AND HOUSTON. Give love lots of emotional sweep.

'Sparkle' shimmers with Whitney's swan songs

By Rico P. Avila

THERE'S a lot of buzz over the big-screen reincarnation of major musicals like "Les Miserables" (starring Hugh Jackman), Anne Hathaway and Russell Crowe), "Annie" (with Wilson Jonathan star and co-star Jay-Z) "Rock of Ages," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Wicked"—all big-budget projections.

This film season, however, the movie-musical we are in Indie dad's revival of 1976's "Sparkle," about three teenage sisters (Lesley Ann Warren, Dorian Harewood) from Harlem who form a girl group during the Motown era in the 1960s.

The 35-year old "cult-classic-to-be" stayed out of the production's sole intention. Produced, Sparkle' lovely mother, Emme, a pop diva Whitney Houston—who died three months after the finished shooting her scenes for her fifth and final feature film!

In "Sparkle" (1), sung remastered, Houston sings two numbers, each reflecting the duality of her protagonist's life in a movie. "We Have to Do The Spanish" documentary

VILLAAZUEZ. The Lush Beauty shows doing the work for her.

Fat chances

By Roscoe U. Torre

MANY OVERWEIGHT men promise to diet to get back into shooting size, but only a determined few actually don't down unwanted pounds. Still, star-studded production shouldn't have a lesson or two from Regine Velasquez, who let her no-nonsense success of her "pregnancy publicity," and her renowned showing success for her "coup de-bikini film with Ara Mina.

Ara herself is still on the heavy side (on her morning news-series on her "Thirty Something" TV show, so he should be able to keep up with his determined leading lady. Regine shares that what's always been a key to her health and diet, which she states

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Cult of celebrity spins out of control

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOW BIZ stars have always been a breed apart, cuter and more beautiful, popular, prosperous and privileged than the rest of us mere mortals.

Admired by millions of ga-ga admirers, they have been adulated, placed on a lofty pedestal, and adored as idols and icons for generations. This has engendered a cult of celebrity too often than organized religions, but sometimes even more wild and

CONTINUED ON E4

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A precious gift that should keep on giving

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR MONTHS now, we have been praying for the recovery of the acclaimed filmmaker and director Marilou Diaz-Abaya, from her heroic battle with cancer. Marilou herself has become much more accepting, but we are still too enlightened and wise.

Imagine our delight, therefore, when we went to the CCP last month to watch "Bawle of Paradise," the filmmaker's short but beautifully evocative and inspirational documentary with her collaborator, Dr. Francis Lopez (her oncologist, by the way)...and found Marilou not just in attendance, but in uncommonly fine fettle!

In fact, she hearteningly confided to us, she had woken up that morning to a new sensation and wondered what it could be...until she realized that this was the first time in eight weeks that she was feeling no pains.

ASHEN AND LOPEZ...Co-authors of "Bawle of Paradise" (below).

Edification

Marilou's glad tidings clarified so: "My agony with her diaz-bacterium is in God's hands, but we have having her in our lives [and] hopefully making more great films for everyone's edification." Ito, while we know that it's medically unenlightened of us to prize her cranium, we concur to dress.

In any case, the screening of Marilou and Lupe's "Bawle of Paradise" proved beyond all doubt that "love is a precious cinematic gift that should keep on giving." The short but achingly beautiful, semi-documentary intercut-ting interviews to the generally unseen and then unsupervised scenes of the deep, which they have captured in luminous and expressive images that celebrate the beauty of God's benevolent yet mysteriously hidden creation beneath the sea.

PAWLEDA continues with luminously unanswered unbowed or scowls.

"Bawle of Paradise" is at heart officially inspirational and aspirational: that it should be shown on TV, for many more viewers, especially the young, is delightful and timely.

Even better, the documentary is narrated by Marilou herself, and her insightfully expressive voice perfectly complements the production's lovely visuals with well-chosen Ishihara quotes that remind us that diaz bacteria and the creative impulse are one!

Just a couple of weeks ago, Marilou was unable to attend the special screening at the CCP Little Theater of Lino Brocka's full length documentary on her life, times and filmography. The carefully researched production combined interviews with Marilou's coworkers and fellow artists with choice excerpts from her outstanding oeuvres.

It gave viewers an experiential understanding of the filmmaker's long and abiding love affair, not just with the cinema, but with the art of life and living as well!

Tinseltown's classy imports

By Butch Cervantes

GRANT. Epitome of the tall, dark and handsome film crush.

BEFORE HOLLYWOOD became the center of the entertainment world, its (mostly) producers used to import British actors to lend their movies with class and sophistication. This practice became necessary when sound films made it clear that the quality of the actors' voices became crucial selling points.

In the '30s, even Philadelphia Story's Katharine Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn's "sophisticated" speaking style.

Attention

Most competitions in Tinseltown were cutthroat, many of its young actors and actresses chose to go to Hollywood, where they hoped their training, connected personality and smooth could draw moviegoers' attention.

The notable imports included Laurence Olivier, Ronald Colman, David Niven, Vivien Leigh, Merle Oberon, Greer Garson, Deborah Kerr, Maureen O'Hara, Maureen O'Sullivan, Angela Lansbury and the recently Cary Grant.

Soon, character actors like Sydney Greenstreet, John Williamson, Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers and John Gielgud followed. In the '40s, Rex Harrison starred in "Anna and the King of Siam."

German actors like Peter Lorre and Marlene Dietrich, as well as musicians like Paul Henreid and Hedy Lamarr starred in "Intermezzo" Hollywood from World War II.

Austrians Ewald a niche with importers like Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman, Vivien Leighes and Max Brin.

Accent

Hollywood also looked to Australia for "British-type" actors. Before Mel Gibson and Bed Taylor, there was Errol Flynn. Even an American like Orson Welles and Canadians Raymond Massey and Joseph Cotten spoke with a British accent!

Elliott Steel and Kim Basinger had prosperous careers before Richard Burton came into the picture. Recently, movie Hugh Jackman was critically acclaimed for his performance in the stage musical of "Oklahoma." Hollywood has handed Oscars to many British actors for their fine performances—factors that many of them richly deserve!

'Sparkle' shimmers with Whitney's . . .

From page E1

Whitney's impressive skills as a vocal technician and tactician...she seamlessly integrates her complex outbursts into the gospel tune's melody without making them sound self-indulgent and splashy.

For her part, Sparks proves she's no producer, especially in her remake of Irene Cara's "Look Into Your Heart" and the silky-smooth "Love, Will," surprisingly, she sucks in the al-bum's most incongruous but great cameo as a whole...but, as individual cuts, many of them manage to stand on their own, most notably Cee Lo Green's show-stopping "I'm A Man" and Yolanda's "Running."

HEX Soulful lyrics.

The R. Kelly-penned "Celebrate," Houston's rousing duet with Sparks (and the last song she recorded before her death on Feb. 11), retells the interwoven, optimistic spirit of "I'm Every Woman." The greater-la-ghd classic ditty is made more notable by the glorious fusion of contemporary voices that require no technological enhancement to soar and, well, sparkle!

Corrinne May

Corrinne "Crooked Lines," Corrinne May's 13-track follow-up to 2007's "Beautiful Soul," benefits from easy-listening melodies and soulful lyrics. The 29-year-old singer-songwriter's thematic driving force is her 2-year-old daughter, Cherry Lilac. (She enthusiastically recites "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in the title track.)

Watch out for the soothing ballad provided by Eric Bigler's Celtic love whistle in "When I Close My Eyes" and the lullaby "In My Arms." Yet more rich-ly-friendly fare, you'll enjoy the infectious hooks of "Just What I Was Looking For" and the contemporary "24 Hours."

Many in an Eric Benet stirring when she sings about Claire, as she does in "Crooked Lines": "My daughter tries to draw a butterfly/ Wish her crayons and crooked lines/ And she's saying 'cause she just can't get it right/ So, I wrap her tiny hand in mine/ To guide her with her heart's design/ And she smiles as her dreams take flight!"

Fat chances

From page E1

relevant cases weight reduction pledge appears to have gotten bigger, down for some months now? For the sake of her career and overall health prospects, the Megastar should redouble her efforts to lose all of those extra single pounds. She's done it before with amazing results so shows for her discipline and determination—and she can do it again.

While we're at it, we also wish that Stanley de Belen were less one battle of the bulge. She isn't an overweight as some celebrities literally "big" stars, but she also needs to get back into fighting and shooting trim.

Temptations

Maybe the fact that she's being the "celebrity" cooking TV show, "Spoon," is providing her many temptations that are distracting her from her weight reduction goal? If so, perhaps it's time for her to go on temporary leave from the show, so she can focus more resolutely on losing some pounds and the devoted to have a (smaller) rear end when she's in the bikini!

Talk about celebrity endorsements, they've become so pervasive that some stars are paid gazillions to swear that they personally use a product—even if they don't. So, why does the cleaning and smelling public believe that pitch? Because it's a celebrity who "definitely" says so.

Story

Most recently of all, celebrities have even taken to endorsing such other's new invented stories! Ito, we're not talking about the "reality" shows that have become so pervasive, but rather the "news" story about a teen movie's premiere, where the stars' celebrity friends gush over and rave about the "amazing" movie they've just seen.

These friendly celebrities' comments show that they wouldn't know a good performance even if it hit them on the head—but, after all, they're friends, not critics and "objective" film-critics whose endorsements should be taken as gospel truth! —Give us a break.

So, really, it's time for us, the allegedly impressionable and gullible members of the audience, to take a step back and cynically rule and nullify on the big and small screens.

Perspective

Put dumb (or long-haired) they have snuffed with food to make them look plump enough to hug, squeeze...and run! (The movie doesn't only—straightjacket, it's also risky from a health perspective, because today's lit-anorexic and huggable child star could be tomorrow's obese has-been...and medical malpractice!

Celebrity endorsements are only too familiar with the "news" story about a teen movie's premiere, where the stars' celebrity friends gush over and rave about the "amazing" movie they've just seen.

These friendly celebrities' comments show that they wouldn't know a good performance even if it hit them on the head—but, after all, they're friends, not critics and "objective" film-critics whose endorsements should be taken as gospel truth! —Give us a break.

So, really, it's time for us, the allegedly impressionable and gullible members of the audience, to take a step back and cynically reconsider what the local cult of celebrity has become, and the exaggerated power and influence it wields over our estimation of and appreciation for how things really are.

The first key club should be our realization that stars aren't necessarily smart or more sensible than the rest of us—they're just smart in the personal ways they are.

So, don't let them lead us by the nose and sell us what to buy and watch, and whom to vote for. Stripped of the eminence fumes surrounding him, the glorious celebrity idol may have...less of someone else.

Cult of celebrity spins out . . .

From page E1

preferred in the undue importance it gives to practically anything a star or starlet says and does!

To get into the pajamas, sex or dietary morsels have to rob a bank, kidnap a rapist or become a serial killer for a show biz celebrity to have the same effect, all he or she has to do is get a toothache—and mouthfully and publicity about how painful it is. —Breaking News!

Of course, we're exaggerating. But, what it is exaggeration is the fact that, of late, the cult of celebrity has become so prominent and prevalent that it's edge into the very fiber of life in this salubrious addled land.

A recent survey caused a stir when it revealed that, instead of wanting to become a doctor, teacher or lawyer, as their parents did only a generation ago, an intimidating number of Filipino youths aspire to short-cut their route to success by becoming popular and exceedingly well-paid entertainers!

Adding to the furor and furor is the overwhelming fact that thousands upon thousands of young hopefuls line up for hours in audition for talent searches, even if they don't possess the remotest face and body required to make it in the biz.

Blindingly worrisome is the inordinate clout and influence that celebrities wield these days. Remember the election when a star was helped make a dare-sashed political entry a senator? Her endorsement was so influential that

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'Bourne' to thrill

By Rito F. Asilo

"BOURNE LEGACY," the latest in millionaire of Robert Ludlum's action-packed film series, hits the ground running—and the action never lets up until its visually exhilarating finale. Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) is no longer "saving" the franchise, but you'll hardly miss him, because the production and its characters make it a point to maximize the chance spy story chance they get.

At the heart of "Legacy's" action is Aaron Cross (Jeremy Renner), who's on the run after the CIA decides to have its "Treadstone" and "Blackbriar" programs—and everyone who knows about it—to the ground.

The agency has decided to "decommission" its genetically enhanced operatives after it becomes about its "morally indefensible but absolutely necessary" covert operation is leaked to the press.

Spies kill one after the other, but Cross proves to be just as adaptable as Bourne. As the movie's big line conveniently proposes, "There was never just one." Now more than ever, Aaron needs the beleaguered program's

WEISZ AND RENNER. Create an atmosphere of believability and high-

performance-enhancing pills to outwit and outrun hit men.

To get the drugs, with the help of Dr. Shearing (Rachel Weisz), the sole survivor of the massacre of lab technicians responsible for the super soldiers' medication, Cross has to fly to Manila, where they are being manufactured—before he and Maria are outgunned by the killers who are hot on their trail!

Series of events

The film takes cues to inform its redundant premise with a series of fast-paced, eighty-edited "talking" scenes to establish a convincing series of events. While still with edge of your

most action sequences, it operates on a convenience but implausible reason drive.

In fact, it's hard to suspend disbelief that the agency can just so easily decide to get rid of its admittedly invaluable assets simply because they're scared of getting exposed. After all, if they can manufacture performances enhancing drugs, there's no reason why they can't make memory scrappers to solve those problems altogether —Besides, what will killing their own spies accomplish?

If your stories are your cup of tea, the movie has heaps of them, including some of the most thrilling motorcycle chase scenes you'll see in a Hollywood production—all staged in Metro Manila's busy streets!

It also doesn't hurt that the production has Stevens, Pitou and Edward Norton helping "create" an atmosphere of believability and high-octane help viewers—Jason Bourne's spy-style circumstances surrounding the character they're playing. To prove a point, it's hard to imagine Aaron and Maria developing romantic feelings for each other so quickly and before go off around them—but, their conviction helps "sell" this far-fetched notion.

As for the Filipino actors cast in small roles, it's Lou Veloso who makes the most of his screen-relish moment, some of them are unrecognizable by their screen "debutante" appearance. Just like most, the sight of these enthusiastically going through their thespian paces makes you proud of their participation in the movie.

For Pinoy viewers, the biggest thrill in watching the action-packed film is undoubtedly watching Manila's undeniably captured in all its exhilarating grease and grime, juxtaposed with breathtaking images of Palawan's lush, green sites!

FANS' DAY

KC's winning attributes

By Andy Bais

MIGUEL RAZON, real estate agency "I watched 'Eat, TV's' recent feature on KC Concepcion's wedding, which differs significantly from the hype, in-service-designed houses of many celebrities. She exudes a sophisticated yet casual and comfortable.

"During the tour, an insight into KC's personality was gained. Intelligence, candor and poise without affectation are her winning attributes. She exuded class, charm and warmth. She is so-to-be loved down-to-earth!"

Other views:

Betty Pellicer, college instructor: "I'm a proud Normalite who, in high school, fought hard to defend my alma mater vigorously when my Filipinoism schoolmates said something negative about her. The Sorsogon-Tabaco studio has been a part of my life. But, now that I'm older, I have begun watching Vilma Santos' films—and find them engrossing, too.

"I will forever be a Normalite, but I've also learned to admire Ate Vi, especially the way she handles her careers in politics and show biz. I hope that they will soon appear in a movie together!"

Diana Pineda, student: "The election season is indeed on the horizon when you see incumbent politicians doing the rounds of TV programs. Recently, I was appalled to see a local official on a show his esteemed talk show. The host, known for his acerbic comebacks, had a field day asking him about his humble beginnings.

CONCEPCION. Intelligence, candor and poise.

BEN-HUR

Too many talent tilts on TV

By Hector U. Torre

MONTANO. Colosseo TV5's 'Geniwa Academy.'

ALL OF a sudden, all three of local TV's major networks are currently holding big-deal searches for new talents, the so-called Stars of Tomorrow they need to excite viewers.

The result is a glut of eagerly smiling—and singing—faces, all hoping to win prizes and viewer votes and, as they ran around out from the marketing crowd and win the huge prizes being dangled in front of them.

Prize to come up with its 12 finalists is "A Factor (Philippines)," specifically a search for singers and singing groups. We've already reacted adversely to its seeming preference for "unique, idiosyncratic singers" over those singing excellence.

Premature exit

Last Sunday, however, another negative aspect to the show reared its pointy head, when the 8th viewer-voted was gave the least number of votes in two of the 8th's battle-to-make bars, resulting in the premature exit of Jordanne Bonello. Yes, the two characters' songs weren't virtuoso, or famous "friendly," but they weren't the worst performers in the lineup —So, their poor showing suggests that the 8th viewer-voters can't be relied on to spot the best contenders—and that's a real problem. (That's why we no longer get "invented" to-name stars whose outcome is decided by viewers' votes.)

For its part, "Protégé's" finale is on young, goodlooking and talented types that (AM.) ? ers build up into tomorrow's stars have. It has a "regional" orientation, with four finalists coming from each geographical aggregation.

The finalists look pretty or handsome enough, but our initial impression is that each body is particular is a real standout on the books and dilettante departments. As for their talents, that's even harder as to rate right away, as we'll have to hide our time before making any solid conclusions in that regard.

Finally, TV5's "Geniwa Academy"(coloseo) by Coco Martin and Shaina Magdayao, has just come up with its eight male and eight female host hets, and our first take on them is that the majority of them conform to the easy-and-cozy template for local show hte makers.

A few appear to be better looking than most of the youths on the other talent fills, but "style" preference for mentors is too ambivalent a task to take, and doesn't encourage us to hope that its awards will result in something truly fresh and new.

Then, there's the additional factor of the three GB's juries and mentors. Some of them are outstanding performers in their own right, so they could TDG/PI

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY JES ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PHIL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE MOOTS BY ELIZABETH HOCHWALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY MIKO ARBON

SEDI BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and penguins at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku By Dan Snow

		4		1		3		
	7		6		3		1	
6								2
	9					5		
1			2					4
	8					3		
7								3
	2		4		5		9	
		3		8		4		

Monday Level: ★★★★

Answers to previous puzzle

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Cork
4 Tambourine bits
8 Pitiful record
13 Hotel stamp
14 Ghent's
15 On the outside of
16 Contended with
17 Ranges
18 Women's movement
19 Potato state
20 Tangent
21 Lunch
22 Tuna
23 Local mosque
24 Fiddler
25 Cleans linoleum
26 Beverage container
27 Cleaning implement
28 Fraternity letter
29 Interested
31 Scatter rugs
33 Disappointed
35 Bad first impression
(2 words)
36 Officials, familiarly
41 Wrestler with designs
(2 words)
42 Ignore
43 Pitch homers
44 Lamb and the like
45 Dunce
46 Lunch, maybe
47 Dusted flour
48 Pigpen
49 Down payments
51 Restaurant meal
53 Rose for
54 Tom Brokaw
55 Bit
56 Cable signals

DOWN

1 Blue-ribbon faculty
2 Wedding rewards
3 "At last, at ..."
4 Part of a Fratelli's outing
(2 words)
5 Assembly place
6 Bird, Anderson
7 Tennis legend
8 Servant material
9 Hotel room amenity
10 Brother, literarily
11 Bridge, literarily
(2 words)
12 Bath water ingredient
14 New Jersey
15 Fundraisers
21 Type of school: abbr.
22 Bird's beak
23 Down and dirties
24 Hub of
25 Tuna
26 Tenderloin
27 Poker's ante
28 Fraternity initiation
30 Chopped
31 Dance, and vitals
32 Dance style
33 Heights
34 Cards
35 Cattle
36 Mother Teresa's garb
37 Pitcher's stat
38 Dustbins, Stateside
39 Lease
40 Beak connections
41 Wedgeshaped weapon
42 Lots of 12 roses
43 Fishy network
44 Head of Nigerian state
46 Big, floppy shoe
47 Pigpen
50 Sunset
52 Bobby

FORUM

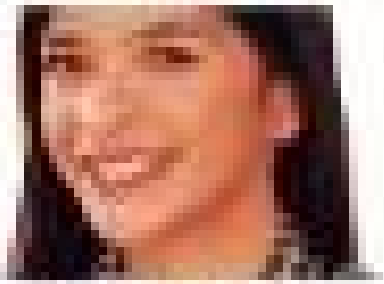
Viewers reminisce about TV shows they miss

By Rashel Tiero

DO YOU have a favorite local TV program that's been canceled? Shows are often pulled, but that doesn't mean they don't have fans. Here are some local TV programs that some viewers would love to see back on the air again.

"I miss UNTV's 'Strangebrews' with Ryan and Nadia. They were a light jab at things—very witty statements, and always fun-ny. For example, in one episode, they were in a chess game, they were seriously playing with spoons, and they were listening to Enya. Or maybe Kim, posing from underwhelming to hyper." Ngem, of neighbors Kristoffer and Jeanette, "Just what I always say with—different, different, good stuff."

"Big entertainment. Because it reminds me of my childhood and of being a 'little kid.' So simple yet so magical!"—Allen Campos, college student



FRIENDSHIP. Made "I Speak" interesting.

"I think it's still on air, but I used to watch 'I Speak' when it was still being hosted by Pocholo Gonzalez. She was a cynic, and the show was interesting. No offense to the current hosts, but Gonzalez was just very aloof in terms of wit and 'brownness.'"—Sabrina Nadia Alonja, business development manager

Heroes

"I would like to see 'Bayani' on TV again. Kids in the '90s actually learned something from it. The characters of the show go back in time so we get to know our country's heroes—who they were, what they did, and why they did it. It's important to understand what drives the hero so maybe for us to relate for us to make a 'bayani' today for our children."—Carlos de Guzman, student

"Unbelievable. Because it was well thought out, had humorous moments, used the ancient Filipino system of writing, and most had no sex scenes—and because it's nice to think that the era ex-ist"—Marvin Cleveld, senior citizen

"Whoopee and Diamond on Broadway." There's nothing like it on TV now, and I don't think they make shows like it anymore—which is a shame, because Whoopee Boy's antics, it was criticized, funny, lovable and silly. Kiana Tomas, Mikee Pedia, Carlo Aquino—what more could we ask for?"—Eileen Perez, customer service representative

Ogie Alcasid marks 25th year in show biz

By Nonie Reyes

OGIE ALCASID celebrates his 25th year in show biz this month. He's full of gratitude for the many blessings he has received. He says that the most important lesson he has learned is "not to approach things in a negative way because something good could come out of it."

Alcasid celebrates the special event with an album launch, a movie project, and the opening of a Japanese restaurant named Ryo Ku-rama on Roman Blvd-ev-ard, Quezon City. The album pays tribute to Ogie as a singer and songwriter, and features 21 of the songs he composed for the likes of Martin Nievera, Angel Locsin, Jaya and his wife, Regine Velasquez.

OPM tunes

A theme from Ogie's movie, "I Do Believe," is sure to top the list. Do-mestic performers, who will join him on Aug. 27, Dimond Ice City Mall-mall, Sta. Rosa, which showcases OPM tunes, has Ogie playing husband to Regine Velasquez.

ALCASID. Thankful for blessings.

The newlywed is a devoted family man to Ogie, because he said Regine "does a good job for him"—although she prefers to work rather than stay at home.

Tippi Hedren reveals real horror of working with Hitchcock

HEDREN. The master of suspense lived up to his name.

LOS ANGELES—It turns out that clever was a real life haven story behind the making of Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, "The Birds." In an interview for HBO's "The Girl," which chronicles actress Tippi Hedren's troubled relationship with Hitchcock, she talked about the harassment she experienced while working with the master of suspense.

"The Girl" was adapted from Donald Spoto's book, "Spellbound by Beauty: Alfred Hitchcock and His Leading Ladies," which details the director's sexual harassment of Tippi while making "The Birds" nearly 50 years ago. Tippi, the mother of Melanie Griffith, was engaged at the time, but Hitchcock, who was married to Alma Reville, was undeterred. Tippi rejected his sexual advances. "The Girl" suggests that Hitchcock punished the actress as a result.

Sienna Miller plays Tippi, while Toby Jones is cast as Hitchcock in the HBO production directed by Julian Jarrold, from the script by Gwyneth Hughes.

Reasons

"Donald is the first person I ever told this story to," Tippi confided. "It was embarrassing and humbling—there were a lot of reasons why I didn't want to tell the story. I didn't want it to be taken as revenge—I wanted, turned and made into an even uglier situation than it was. It wasn't until years later that I told Donald the story. He then dovetail Chapter 13 of 'The Dark Side of Genius: The Life of Alfred Hitchcock' to the Hitchcock/Hedren years. He is absolutely true and honest in this

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ayden V. Nefyodov

book." (Donald published "Dark Side..." in 1992; "Spellbound" in 1984.)

Tippi still vividly remembers the real horror of shooting the attic scene in "The Birds." "I remember it well," she stressed. "When I first read the script, I said, 'Mr Hitchcock, why would I go upstairs? In front of all, after knowing what happened to everybody in town, the children and all the farmers?' He said, 'Because I tell you to.' Well, that was fine. But, the second question I asked was, 'How would you like me to react?' He said, 'Just react like we do with the children.'"

But, when Tippi went out to the set, "There was a cage with four dozen of ravens, gulls and a few pigeons thrown in. Bird trainers with gauntlets up to their shoulders battled birds, one after the other, at me for one week. As days went by it just felt more and more real."

"It was a nightmare! I ended up in a doctor's care for a week. Hitchcock said, 'She can't act for a week. We have nobody else in film.' The doctor said, 'What are you trying to do, kill her?' I didn't think I was that good."

Tippi recounted how Hitchcock sabotaged her career. "The way he ruined my career was when I got out of 'The Birds' and 'Marnie,' I was, as the expression goes, hot in Hollywood," she said. "All the producers and directors wanted me for their films. They had to go through him to get to me. All he had to do was say that 'she isn't available.' It was so easy for him."

Rejection

The veteran actress recalled her reaction upon seeing "The Girl" for the first time. "I can't tell you what it was like to have a story about yourself told, and it's so true. At the end of the screening, suddenly I was overwhelmed by anything, until my daughter, Melanie, jumped up and said, 'How I love to go back in time [to pay Tippi's] my daughter!'"

Tippi hopes that the film "will empower young women to know that you do not have to acquiesce to the demands of anyone ever.

"Here I was dealing with one of the most powerful men in motion pictures. It was difficult, embarrassing and insulting. It took me a long time to get over it. I didn't cure. He said, 'I will talk your career.' I said, 'Do what you have to do, I want out?'"

Tippi admitted that Hitchcock had "good sides." She said, "He was also my dream coach. He was inspiring, fabulous and made me for the rest of my career."

"He was probably one of the greatest storytellers," Tippi acknowledged. "He knew how to manipulate his audiences. He was brilliant at choosing stories that he wanted to tell. He had a great sense of humor. He would tell jokes during filming."

But being sexually harassed by Hitchcock negated everything. "I wasn't interested in being the object of someone's obsession," she emphasized. "It was horrible!"

Tippi claimed that she got over this "horrible" experience "a long time ago." She explained, "Because I know people who have had worse things and their lives were ruined by it, I thought, I survived during that."

At 82, Tippi looks gorgeous. The normal actress, who runs a sanctuary for exotic felines, half jokingly explained why she remains lovely.

"Mainly the answer, because I have so much stress in my life dealing with the big cats—the lions and tigers that are born in the United States or be sold as pets or for financial gain, and I'm trying to stop that. Everyday I open," she said. "I have to raise $75,000 every month. If you don't think that causes stress, I'd hand it over to you, and you give it a shot!"

E-mail rmpalm_2000@yahoo.com, follow him at http://twitter.com/rmpalmreviews.

Acclaimed Asian films showcased on cable

By Sharon Rakes Pisarevitz

FOR MONTHS now, one of the channels of our cable TV provider has been having a very bad reception. We were disheartened to find that many of the few movie channels we've enjoyed viewing is not quite fine.

But, our disappointment was not short when we discovered upon the Screen Red channel. Presented by HBO Asia and Rhi Ah Productions, it features some of Asia's best films. It's a welcome treat for Pinoy movie buffs since most Hollywood-produced foreign films are mostly showcased only during weekend film festivals held here.

Comedy flicks

Red features an array of series, programs, movies, romance and comedy flicks from Asia, and the best part is, we can now watch them in the comfort of our homes—24/7!

With English subtitles, these movies give us a glimpse of the rich and diverse cultures of our Asian neighbors that make us realize that their undying sides of love and friendship are universal. One love films.

"Kehuan Of The Rainbow" is a moving drama set in 1960s British Hong Kong that tells the story of a family whose lives are shaken when eldest son, Jin Ri (Alan Tam), is diagnosed with leukemia. It tests the Chinese traditions of their filial piety.

Korea's heart-warming "Five Moments" is about music lovers, Ji Ho (Han Jung-Hwa), and piano prodigy, Byung-hun (Ha Ji-jae). As dreamed of becoming a well-known pianist like Madman Steinwitz, but an like her classmates, who become teachers in prestigious universities, she moved to a small town to teach kids to play the piano. When she discovered her young protégé's great talent, however, she vowed to mentor him for a big competition—her chance to be recognized as a great piano teacher!

"Shuda Girls" is based on a true story set in Hokkaido—the northernmost island prefecture of Japan. It follows the story of a high school calligraphy club, headed by Satoko Hayakawa (Yuki Kamiya), during the Japanese recession.

YUKI KAMIYA (Photo by Jimmy)

New members

As members of the club's lease on after the school, Satoko tries to recruit new members, to no avail—until a substitute teacher introduces them to performance calligraphy. The film was featured at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival.

Other notable films on offer for Korea's "Late Blossom" highlights the touching romance of two couples in their twilight years; "Blades Of Courage" tells the story of Mayha (Korea); "Kiss Dance With The Summer" (Japan); and "Tempted of First Love" (Taiwan).

We hope that well-made Filipino movies will also be featured on the Red channel soon, so we can tune in and "Enjoy Philippine Cinema" when we're homesick for true-to-life Filipino stories and recognition they deserve!

Walk for a cause

ENARISTO. President of Alay Lakad Foundation

THE NEW officers of the Alay Lakad Foundation include Frank Fuentes as president, Frank Lapuz (vice president), and Reuben Quintanilla (treasurer), with President Regina Gonzon-Aquino III as honorary chairman. Other board members Dr. Teresita Ang-See, Atty. Joe Rodolfo and Rosario Filart.

On its 40th year, Alay Lakad will be joined by top civic organizations, Junior Chamber International, Rotaria, Lions and Rotary Clubs, in "Walk 2012."

The foundation is getting away ball rolling, giving grants to 114 P.P. projects beginning this school year. Part of Alay Lakad's proceeds will subsidize out-of-school youth training workshops and livelihood projects.

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

Join our Bukidnon Photo Safari on Oct. 12-15, which includes visits to the laboratory of Transphotation and the biggest pineapple plantation in the world, at the Lolo Saba Photo Safari is on Nov. 26-28. Visit mindanaoadventures.blogspot.com, or call 895-1767.

Eugene topbills 'Bona' adaptation

DOMINGO Stars in stage adaptation of Ricky Rivera's film masterpiece.

IN PETOS now stage is imagining of Lino Brocka's film masterpiece, "Bona." Eugene Domingo now plays the title character as a spinster cult fanatic agent who becomes the diehard fan of starlet Gina Sanchez (Edgar Allen Guerrero). Blinded by her obsession for him, the latter has had an everything she values.

The latest adaptation by Lupita Kashi is directed by Soxie Topacio, and the production runs from Aug. 24 to Sept. 23. Call 725-6144 or 0917 576.5360.

Cine-Phone festival

The SINESIS Cine-Phone Film festival, supported by Smart Communications Inc., is open to students who can make three-minute short films that are shot only with cell phones, and adhere to the theme of removing road recovery among motorists and pedestrians. Details are posted on www.facebook.com/sinesisandthefest.

'Reunion of Champions'

ABC Philippines brings back the country's top female spinners in "The First ABC Reunion of Champions." They will be featured in special shows at the Candelaria Superdrive this month. Meet: Aug. 11, Ed Galo and Dr. Jun Watts; Aug. 18, DJ Colbert and DJ Sonia; Aug. 25, DJ Mel, DJ Orly, DJ Sonia—etc.?

'Love, Bathala'

The Music School of Ryan Cayabyab presents "Love, Bathala" at Music Museum on Aug. 24. Composed of Amita Ashvines, Ernie Cayabyab and Mel Tiaxo, the female vocal trio find specialties in bebop and jazz standards, recently won as Best Jazz Band in the Red Stop Recording Jazz Competition. Call 827 9890.

Movies on TV

Today on ABS-at 2:15 p.m., "Back to the Future," Aug. 11 at 8:30 p.m., "The Incredible Hulk"; Aug. 12 at 9 a.m., "Sleepy Hollow"; Aug. 16 at 9 a.m., "Who Killed Roger Rabbit?" Aug. 18 at 8:30 a.m., "The Chronicles of Riddick." Aug. 19 at 9:45 a.m., "Apollo 13."

Out on video

Warner Bros. raises' hit comedy film, "Movie 43 and the Crying Lady" is now out on VCD and DVD. The story comedy topbills Jude Mazurenko, Billy Crystal and Alberta Isaiahs. Marvin Agustin and Arlene Lopez.

'Mga Awit Protesta'

The University of the Philippines' College of Music presents "Mga Awit Protesta," a concert featuring Lester Demerillo, Becky Abraham, Edru Abraham, Levi Pareda, Mel Andres and Joanne Abraham, at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at Abelardo Hall. Call 924-9220.

Smart People's Choice

An engineer's song about his reservation about approaching a long-lost sweetheart resonated with mobile subscribers, who voted it the Smart People's Choice for the first Philippine Popular Music Festival. James Leyco's song, "Sweet," garnered the highest number of text votes and received P200,000 and a trophy by Ramon Ordiza.

Nova Concertante Manila

The Nova Concertante Manila, conducted by Arvin Tan, competed in the 2012 Asia-Cantata International Choral Competition in Phuket, Thailand from July 11 to 14, and was awarded the Grand Prix. Winning 19 double from eight Asian countries.

Nova Concertante was also recognized for its rendition of Jaime Fabregat's arrangement of the "Duli song, "Tanya Sa Tinig," with the "Voice of Asia" award for the Best Philippine Rendition of an Asian Composition. The judges declared Tan as "Most Outstanding Conductor."

Al-Ai for Country Bankers Insurance Group

Al-Ai debut Alan Isaac signed on to pitch for Country Bankers Insurance Group, a primary provider of life, health and micro insurance products and services to rural banks, cooperatives, NGOs and micro finance institutions. Al-Ai is a staunch believer in securing her loved ones' future.

Dolphy's dramatic showcase

By Nestor U. Torre

THE IMC before Dolphy's remains were interred, 40th (2003) "Maalala Mo Kaya" box-office hit replaying "Tinderella," a dramatic piece that the master comic did for the long-running TV drama anthology.

For some viewers who know Dolphy mainly as a comedic actor, the vintage piece must have been a surprise—if not a downright shock. Instead of his usual wry and puckish self, Dolphy dug deep into his "serious" emotional resources to do justice to the story of his character, an old man who had spent 40 years in prison for a crime that he did not commit.

Talk about a major acting challenge, this extremely poignant character would have tested the thespic resources of our best veteran dramatic actors.

Happily, Dolphy was able to meet the rigorous challenge, especially in the powerful, tear scene in which his character's innocence was finally affirmed, and the son who had based him for decades realized that he had been terribly tragically wrong.

Subject matter

Dolphy's success proves that the much-hyped dividing line between "drama" and "comedy" is a spurious one. Whether the "style" is serious or having the subject matter is still life itself, and well-known tragicomedians like Charlie Chaplin have proven that there is no such thing as "pure" comedy.

—Which is not to say that "Tinderella" was an overwhelming success from start to finish. For one thing, "MKK" premiered by overly long narration occasionally blocked the visceral impact of Dolphy's portrayal. His character was made to spend too much time talking about events that he remembered in the past, rather than, by the time the story's telling got to the present time, the emotional surge of the

THE KING is dead; long live his (Chaws) prince!

dramatic piece had a hard time peaking.

The occasional reliance on unedited home movies being talked about or recalled live, vital and urgent than they should be. In addition, the "all knowing" narrator makes things feel too pat and predictable to have a truly dramatic and empathetic impact on viewers.

Another actor who benefited from its exposure in the "MMK" series is Dolphy nephew and heir, Epi Quizon. He played his father as a young man and, aside from being a dead ringer for his dad as a youth, Epi also brought to his portrayal his own unique intensity and theatric insights, which enriched the TV scenes with their telling truth.

The best part of the episode was, given the "drama" of seeing how talent is handed down from one generation to the next to the Quizons' cast, it's clear from the way that Epi's own acting career has developed that he has lived himself from the "obligation" he feels to turn out to be a "Dolphy first 2."

Like his father, Epi has been very effectively, for most of his comings, especially in indie movies, have shown that versatility to be a component of his emerging thespic ethos.

So, even as we mourn the death of "Dolphy, "MMK's" recent "replay rebuns" gives us heart and hope, because it shows that the late star's legacy is secure in the screens of some of his progeny, like Epi.

The King is dead; long live his "Epiyosmic" screen prince!

Too many . . .

Turn to page F7

really help their young and still thirsten discoveries everywhere get their acts together.

However, there are other summers or years who aren't known for significant achievements, or are even memorable for "over the top" portrayals, so we worry about the "type" for "commanding" performance that they could be imparting to their children and hapless wards.

Well, it's still early days for all three talent searches, so we should give them time to get their respective passes going before comparing the quality of the talents they are discovering and developing to become tomorrow's TV film recording lures.

What will ultimately win the prize—exceptional talent, winning looks—or, in a perfect universe, all three combined?

KC's winning attributes

Turn to page F7

"The interview went on smoothly until he was asked about the brand of his underwear. Without hesitation, Alfred showed it to everyone to see! If only he could be as cooperative and hardworking as a public servant, because the city he serves needs his utmost attention."

Chay Gonzales, film enthusiast: "Viewers who were looking for a re-imagining of Lawrence Fajardo's gripping 'Isnob' as his new film, 'Feast,' may have been disappointed—but, they're missing the point: 'Feast' contains the indolent, and tape-to-shoot everyday waking of police work. It's a cautionary tale. Art Acuña's character is surprisingly likable, walking the thin line between omnipotent and total lack of remorse."

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